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Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Anja Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sarda, Sarat Deb  
Correspondents Bombay Harsh Munshi, Madras Ashok Kamath  
Staff Photographer Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Art Director Bipul Guha  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Out to belittle

**SUNIL GAVASKAR** may say that Kapil Dev is his hero but he is definitely out to belittle him. He always takes him off when he is reaping a rich harvest of wickets and persists with him when there is nothing in the wicket for him. How else can you explain his act of taking Kapil off when England were 36 for three and bringing him on only when the batsmen were set? It is really a shame that his jealousy for the all-rounder comes at the expense of his country's progress.

G. L. SRIVASTAV,  
Dibrugarh University

Malay Banerjee's view that appeared in the *Sportsworld* issue of 9 June, 1982 that sports should be left to sports men alone.

MANJUL DUTTA,  
Calcutta

### Incorrect

IN reply to a question seeking the highest score of Greg Chappell's Test career, Mr. Siddhar Vaidya mentioned that it was 235. But it is not correct. It should be 247 not out, which Chappell hit against the Kiwis in 1973-74 in New Zealand.

RAKESH AMBASTHA,  
SHALISH AMBASTHA,  
Maitron

(Another letter pointing out the similar fact was also received from Mr. Chinmoy Roy, Calcutta.)

### Regret

WE regret that Mr. Sushovan Chatterjee's letter entitled 'Disheartening' published in the issue of *Sportsworld* dated 19 May, 1982, contained certain inaccuracies. Moreover, the allegations therein are baseless and incorrect. We apologise for the error.

EDITOR

### Denied

CALCUTTA is once again being denied the privilege of a telecast of the World Cup soccer matches, as was the case with the cricket Tests, which were relayed 'live' through the satellite to most of the other cities.

Football has the largest number of followers in Calcutta and fittingly enough, the Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup was held here. The facts which bear out Calcutta's supremacy in football are legendary and need no elaboration here.

The decision to ignore our claims for the soccer telecast is dubious and the guiding factor is political, if anything. I support

### A tip or two

**GHULAM PARKAR** could learn a thing or two about reading swing bowling from Chetan Chauhan. Since watching Chauhan out to reinforce the tickle batting, might tantamount to a loss of face for Wankhede and Associates the gutsy Rajpat should be let off as a technical expert to comment on policy decisions.

Parkar's object surrender to Pommie pace was best borne out by his shouldering arms to a Wankhede swing on a round the off stick. Yashpal Sharma also has been compelled by retreating his steps at the sight of the English captain's team in to hail his thunderbolt. The same can be said of Ashok Mahindra.

Yashpal's job has been cut out ever since he began representing India. Whenever Gavaskar is chased after a bloodless victory in a boring knock it is done on Sharma's otherwise weak shoulders that he has chosen to be photographed. Another regular pall bearer was Karsan Ghadia, who continued to be the moral Uncle Kaddu to Rohan.



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Gavaskar and in the process earned his place in the side

Whenever in Delhi, Gavaskar hob-nobs with Rajiv Gandhi even as promising youngsters battle it out to stake their claims in the national side. Rajesh Peter was playing that historic knock to salvage Delhi in the Duleep Trophy while Gavaskar was politicking in the corridors of power. I implore Pataudi, Chandra and Engineer to step into their rightful shoes as cricket administrators. Wankhede must go!

CHIRANJIT BANERJEE,  
Calcutta

ON the occasion of India's fifty years in Test cricket we invite readers to compose their best Indian team since 1932, complete with a twelfth man.

EDITOR

## Why not Venkat?

THE AIR programme on the Test ties between India and England



'NOW BEGINNING THE  
POST ASIAD BOURGEOIS RACE

Shohini

Header: Mrs. Shohini Ghosh sends her observation on what the situation will be when room in the Ashd Village are set out to the public

was interesting in the beginning. The interviews with Vijay Merchant, Chandu Sawade, Polly Umrigar, Ajit Wadekar and Hanuman Singh emphasised this fact. But I felt that the programme was ended abruptly with the interview of Chan-

dasekhar. It was also mysterious why Venkat had been left out. In fact, Venkat had toured England four times, on the last occasion as captain.

More over, he had led India in 1975 World Cup as captain too and had also played a prominent part in

The Oval drama of 1971. It was Venkat who had claimed the all important wicket of Alan Knott that paved the way for Chandu to go through the 'low



order. Again it was Venkat who had claimed the catch of Luckhurst in the second innings apart from playing a very useful knock in the first innings.

C. K. SUBRAMANIAM,  
Ghaziabad

## Final say

IN the Jubilee Test Kripal proved beyond doubt that he can indeed be 'DFVastating'.

S. V. ANGRI,  
Shillong

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**"D**ESERTER" shouted a man from the boundary line as Derek Pringle came out to bat for the Combined Universities against India. The venue was Cambridge, the university the new England cap belongs to, and the disparaging remarks emanated from a faculty member, whose ire resulted from Pringle's choice of playing in the second Test at Old Trafford instead of the Varsity match with Oxford.

People in India might deem it foolish on the part of the professor to condemn a cricketer who has opted for his country rather than his university. What, after all, can be more honourable and useful than playing for one's country; they would perhaps say. But in conservative English circles the sentiments are somewhat different. And appearing in the Varsity match next only in importance to playing a Test at Lord's and a bounden duty.

But in the present climate of things with 1400 to be earned from each Test match, the values are not the same. Moreover, young Pringle, who captained Cambridge, might have thought that if he withdrew from the Test side, someone like Mike Gatting, replacing him, could conjure up a hundred, and that would retard the former's aspirations considerably. Whatever he thinking, Pringle has done the uncommon. And for it he will not be very popular in some circles in Cambridge.

Anyhow, he did turn out for the Combined Eleven against the Indians, and produced a brisk half century in the second innings before the time petered out into a draw. It was a two-day encounter in which Gavaskar got a hundred, Shivlal Yadav five wickets. But more important, the experiment to open the innings with Ravi Shastri proved to be a fruitful exercise, for this Bombay all rounder notched up 93 in the first outing and remained unbeaten on 24 in the second. Of course, the Universities' attack was nothing to write home about.

## Tour Diary

# Opening up on a tricky issue

Yet one could not but admire the dedicated outlook of the youngster. It has been a most unpalatable situation for the tour selectors, with Pranab Roy emerging as an unqualified failure and Ghulam Faikani demonstrating an inability to cope with Test standard bowling. In such circumstances with no other opener in the squad, there was no option other than that of trying out Shastri, and although it is a matter for debate as to how he will fare when confronted by the likes of Willis, Botham and Allott, one is certain that it not immediately then one day this boy will be a force to reckon with as a batsman. He has good temperament, plays straight and against a slightly better attack in the Gloucestershire match, he again thrust forth a half century to virtually settle the issue for the selectors.

However, in view of India's present plight, it is, perhaps, time to speak out on team selection. When the side landed in England, this correspondent was hesitant to pass judgement on the merits or demerits of some of the new comers in the 16, as also on whether anybody in particular should have made the trip in lieu of someone who had been picked. Since then, I have emphasised that it might have been a mistake not to include Chetan Chauhan. Now I am convinced that this has been the biggest blunder.

Having watched the Delhi opener in Australia and New Zealand in the winter before last, I saw no reason why he should not have been retained in the side for the last England series. When a player is well established in the Test side, runs or lack of it in the first class level should not be a criterion.

And Chauhan was one of the most consistent batsmen Down Under. It was once said of the late Ken Barrington that he invariably ran into form with the first Test of the summer. Indeed, if the then England selectors had gone by his performances for Surrey in May he would quite often have lost his Test place.

The general rumour is that he was dropped to make way for a younger player, which is fair if only the replacement does not weaken the side. It has also been suggested in some quarters that his night involvement with the Delhi cricket politics upset some members of the Board and led to his omission. And finally, it is learnt that Vijay Mehra thought it more prudent to back Kirti Azad and not Chauhan. Cricket lovers back at home will know better if all this fits into the jigsaw puzzle. As far as I am concerned, none of them are valid enough causes for Chauhan's exclusion. His experience of English conditions and his dogged determination would, in fact, have been an asset to the Indians at this uncomfortable moment.

A good start is crucial and often makes the difference between a decent and a hopeless score. It is gathered that while Sunil Gavaskar, both last winter and before coming to England, urged the selectors albeit mildly to recall Chauhan, but the request fell on deaf ears. Polly Umrigar and company apparently were sold on Roy Dattu Phadkar, in fact, told me in Madras that he thought the Bengal batsman had played better than Gavaskar in the fifth Test.

Of course, anyone who saw Roy in Madras would rate him very highly. He

seemed to be undeterred by pace and was right behind the line of the most testing deliveries. But his composure and confidence has disappeared in the face of the moving ball. He is still copybook in his approach, but more often than not missing the line. Indeed, having carved out just one 50 in 12 County games, he is being labelled as Gavaskar's blue-eyed boy, who has got his chances only because of the skipper's backing.

The change between Madras and England is the deviation off the wicket. It is a misnomer to think that 'swing' is the main examination in England. There is enough change of direction in the air in India, but not so much off the track, which is what batsmen have to master in order to succeed in 'the home of cricket'. Either Roy has been taking his eyes off the ball or not adjusting to the possible 'breakback'. He has been bowled several times between the bat and pad or trapped leg before, which can be construed as inaccuracy against the incoming ball. Indeed, one cannot help feeling that he would have been better off as the third opener. Roy's last chance, in fact, transpired against Gloucestershire, when he was caught and bowled by a spinner for 32.

The other disappointment, no less devastating from an Indian angle, has been the failure of Ashok Malhotra in the first Test. He played wrong cricket by going back when he should have been forward in the first innings and by not getting into line in the second—a rather unexpected display from an exponent who had promised so much in the earlier games. And he did not quite come off versus Gloucestershire, a game, weather permitting, India could have won, thanks to two undefeated fifties and all four wickets in a total of 49 in the home side's second venture in favour of Madras. But when it comes to the Tests, it might again be an uphill task. And Gavaskar knows this better than most.

ASHIS RAY

HOLMES-COONEY HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE FIGHT

# Challenger glorious in defeat

GEORGE K. GEORGE reports on how Gerry Cooney failed to go the distance against defending champion Larry Holmes

**T**HE most expensive boxing extravaganza of history is over. The real life "Rocky III" show has had another ending. The underdog did not pull off an upset but still the 50 millions dollar show was worth watching as it had all the major ingredients of a good title bout.

Challenger Gerry Cooney called it "The most prestigious thing in the world." To him, the heavyweight championship was the ultimate, not just in sports, but in the whole wide world. He went after it a little too early, perhaps, and missed it by six minutes and eight seconds. Undefeated champion Larry Holmes stood between him and his aspirations. As his trainer, Victor Valle, stopped the fight in the thirteenth round, Cooney came over the public address system

and said "I'm sorry, I'm sorry." He was apologising to his fans and the public but I thought that he had nothing to apologise for. He had just given a remarkable performance marked with courage and poise. He behaved like a champion and a gentleman—even in defeat.

It was an unusual fight in many ways and the racial overtones were obvious from the very beginning—a fight between a white man and a black. Cooney's managers and the other promoters had cashed on that element.

Seldom had a young challenger with such little fight experience shot up to the position of the number one challenger for the heavyweight title of the world. Again, as Holmes had remarked so often, had Gerry

Cooney been a black young man, he would never have got a 10 millions dollar shot at the undefeated champion.

Ten million dollars. Nobody could be a loser after winning that much money for a single fight. Cooney's side insisted that he be paid the same amount as Holmes. Desperate for this showdown, Holmes agreed. Then again, as Don King admits, the main thing about the boxing promotion business is lying. The fighters are expected to make at least 10 million dollars each as the final figures will be tallied in a few more weeks. Almost all the 32,000 seats of the temporary arena at the Caesar's Palace Hotel in Las Vegas were occupied.

The gambling capital of the world,



Larry Holmes works the sweat out of Gerry Cooney in the title fight

Las Vegas, Nevada, provided the perfect setting for the fight, as it had done for the Ali-Holmes and Sugar Ray Hearns encounter. Don King wanted to promote the event all by himself. But Tiffany Enterprises, Cooney's sponsors, allowed him only to co-promote. Two and a half-million people paid 15 dollars and more to see the fight on closed circuit television while for cities like New York, the minimum ticket was 30 dollars. Some outlets' charges were as much as 150 dollars for the show and dinner. The American Broadcasting Corporation, a leading television network is reported to have paid at least three million dollars for the right to publicly telecast it in a few days.

Gerry Holmes had two masters in his corner: his 72-year-old trainer Eddie Tatch and his associate Ray Arndt, the 82-year-old boxing guru. Cooney had his regular trainer Valle along with the cut spendist Artie Curle. Cooney had the advantages in height, weight and age and was also said to possess the toughest left hook since the best days of Joe Louis.

Most of the boxing experts and the Press had picked Holmes to be the winner. The only notable exception was Angelo Dundee, who had predicted that Cooney would certainly win by a knockout. The experts felt that Gerry Cooney lacked experience more than anything else. The fight, originally scheduled for March 15, was postponed due to a shoulder injury which Cooney suffered while training. It was also not clear whether he had recovered fully. The gamblers in Vegas and elsewhere called the odds in favour of Holmes.

Moreover, Gerry Cooney had done very little fighting since May 25, 1980, the day he had knocked out an ageing Jimmy Young. Altogether he had spent only three minutes and 43 seconds in the ring in his later fights with Ron Lyle and Ken Norton. And for almost a year he had not fought at all. Since 14 December, 1979, he had boxed only five rounds in a professional bout. Nor had he brought any strong challenger on his 25 bout professional career.

Gerry Cooney was in Las Vegas that eventful night because he had the shrewdest boxing managers he had: him to get him to the title fight through smart planning and clever publicity. He was certainly far less experienced than his 36-year-old rival who was baptised into professional boxing as the sparring partner of Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali.

The lack of experience showed all along the fight. Cooney came to the ring dressed in green, the colour of the Irish. The young man from Long Island, New York, had his mother at the ringside and wanted to win for his dead father whose biggest ambition was to be a boxer. Holmes and his entourage marched in with an usual speed. Dennis Rapport, the

more notorious of Cooney's managers held up a sign "Tick, tick," implying that Cooney was a time bomb, ready to explode. But there was fear in their man's eyes as he stood face to face with Holmes just before the fight. Holmes, on the contrary, stared at him intensely as Cooney looked down.

The light opened with Holmes attacking. His original plan was to circle around Cooney and stay away from his vicious left hand. Holmes stuck to that from the beginning and danced whenever he could. Cooney abstained from hitting and his stance looked rather clumsy. Partly, it was due to the fact that his legs look rather thin compared to his upper body.

Cooney was very much on the defensive while Holmes opened the attack as the former waited with his right hand raised in defence. That was to be the pattern for the whole evening. In most of the rounds, Holmes was to come charging at



Cooney grimaces after receiving a hammer blow from Holmes. He was stopped some 10 rounds later.

Cooney's corner at the sound of the bell. At the same time, the champion remained very cautious. He reduced Cooney's left hand to ineffectiveness and attacked with his right. His main technique was to set up with the left and hit with the right.

The crowd, from the beginning, was clearly on Cooney's side. It even booed Holmes as he entered the ring. But Holmes couldn't care less. He fought like a champion. He knew that all he had to do was to stay away from Cooney's left hand in the early rounds to avoid a knockout and then try to wear him out. After all, Cooney had never fought more than eight rounds.

In the second round, Holmes knocked Cooney down as no one had done before. Many thought that it was a prelude to a quick knockout. But Cooney, who refused to go flat on the floor, balanced himself on his knees and was up even before the referee Mills Lane had counted five. Still, the count went up to eight and

Cooney was all set by then. Suddenly, the challenger started on the offensive in the third round and hooked and jabbed with power and spirit. Later in the round, Holmes did the same, but the round clearly belonged to Gerry Cooney.

Holmes was not very defensive in the fourth either. Cooney went on with his assault and had Holmes reeling in the corner. But he was not able to nail him with a knockout punch. There was an equal amount of exchanges in the fifth, but the round belonged to Holmes by a narrow margin and he had been able to block Cooney more effectively than in the preceding two rounds.

In the sixth, Holmes suddenly became very aggressive. A left and a right from the champion sent Cooney reeling and a barrage of shots followed. Cooney's head was caught in between the ropes and Holmes kept hitting him. He came out of it somehow and survived the round. Blood oozed from the cuts over his left eye and on the bridge of his nose. His left eye began closing as the seventh round opened but he continued valiantly.

He came back in the eighth round with a bang and clearly dominated the first half. Only by the end of the round did Holmes come up with a couple of good punches.

Cooney took some beating in the ninth and his blows flew at best twice the second one being a hard and brutal blow. Holmes bent down in pain and the referee gave him a minute to recover and deducted two points from Cooney's tally. The tenth round belonged to Cooney but a round later Holmes had recovered and was on the offensive again. Another low blow from Cooney was penalised by one point and the round went Holmes way even without the penalty.

By now, Cooney was getting tired. His hands had started dropping gradually; he couldn't keep his right hand high enough or hit really hard with his left. The sting had disappeared. On the other hand, Holmes' right kept coming through out the twelfth but Cooney continued to absorb it all like a man. But the fatal 13th had shown near Cooney, exhausted and bleeding, left himself open and immediately Holmes landed over a dozen in a row as the challenger hung on to the ropes with one hand. But Gerry Cooney refused to go down. He wanted to prove that he could take the blows something many critics had suspected. But his trainer couldn't stand it any longer and jumped into the ring putting his arms around Cooney. It was all over.

Cooney later said about the throwing in of the towel: "I want to go back to the gym and train harder and prepare for the next time." He continued: "I want to say I am sorry. I have no excuses. I just wanted to win just to win" and he almost broke



Larry Holmes winces after receiving one below the belt from Cooney. The latter was warned

down. But later, doing an Ali impression, he said like Ali used to say, 'I shall return' and shared the laughter with the Press.

Ville believes that he did the right thing in throwing in the towel. "I know when a fighter is tired and all his reflexes are gone. I didn't want him to get a beating; I'm not going to let my fighter take a beating for all the millions in the whole world. I love this boy too much," he said.

But Cooney explained, "There's no excuses to make. I just want you to understand. I don't fight for money. I fought to win. I fought for the people. I guess I'm a little disappointed because I lost. I'm not going to hang my head down low. I'm going home and I'll do better next time. I'm sorry."

In spite of his bitterness towards Cooney before the fight, Larry Holmes was gracious to acknowledge that Cooney surprised him. "Gerry is a fighter and he surprised me and I think he surprised a lot of people. If he ever gets Rapport out of his corner, he will be all right."

Larry Holmes was probably more surprised at the way the judges scored the fight. Juan Lord scored it 113-111, Dave Moretti put it at 113

111 and Jerry Roth had it 115-109 in Holmes' favour. That meant that on two cards, Larry Holmes led by only one point because Cooney was penalised by three points for infractions. No one in their right mind could believe it. "It was going to be robbery," said co-promoter Don King. "I'm completely mystified by the scoring. And if Larry Holmes hit

Gerry Cooney below the belt as many times as Cooney hit Larry Holmes he would have been disqualified."

Don King says that he may have to bid goodbye to Las Vegas if the Nevada State Commission does not appoint better judges. But there is only one Vegas. Still, it would have been a shame if the fight had gone the distance of 15 rounds and Gerry Cooney had won on points. It would have been an unfair stigma on the gallant Gerry Cooney. He must be happy that it didn't happen.

In retrospect, the fight proved one thing: that there is no short route to the heavyweight championship of the world. It is experience that makes the difference.

This fight reminded one of the Montreal brawl between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran. Leonard was less experienced. He tried to prove to the world that he could take punches from Duran and went on the defensive. He gave up his methods and taught in the Duran style with disastrous results. Cooney did the same. He has proved that he could take punches but in the process, forgot to fight in his natural way and to knock out Holmes.



Cooney slumps on the shoulder of his trainer and the fight comes to the end

## **WORLD CUP '82**

# **Pilgrims progress**

With upsets and controversies playing their roles, the grand fiesta of soccer in Spain is hotting up fast. Referees are being criticised and there have even been official probes into certain cases of alleged partiality. Players are threatening to walk out and giants like West Germany are giving way to fledgelings like Algeria. With all this, the drama now seems headed for a spectacular climax. **ARIJIT SEN** files his report

**T**HREE has been so much variety and such surprises that the first eight days of the World Cup pool matches will remain indelible in any chronicle on world football.

By the night of June 25, most of the minnows had packed their bags for home as the seasoned wolves got ready for round two but they have left memories that will continue to shock and surprise the latter for years to come. For Ioan Havelange, this would be a great triumph over

his critics who had gone to the extent of alleging that he had offered bribes for his re-election—which included the expansion of the World Cup finals to 24 teams.

Among the countries to profit from this decision were Algeria, Cameroon, Kuwait and the weakest outfit, El Salvador, but the so-called greats of European football, like England, have also benefited. The last named would not have made it to the finals otherwise.

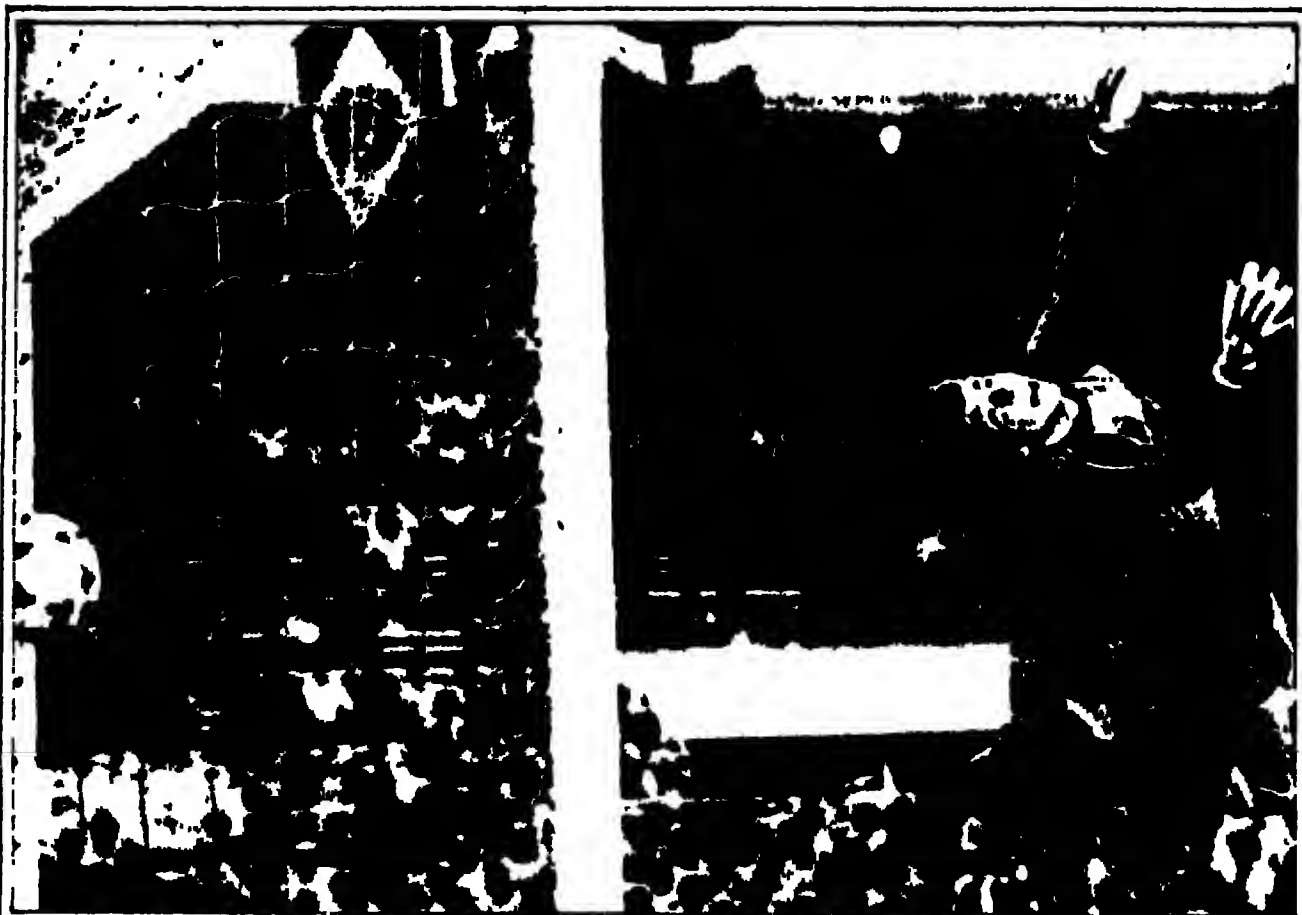
Except for El Salvador, every team has proved it is worth its salt. And Cameroon's goalkeeper N'Kono—who religiously wears German Sepp Maier's gift of a tracksuit to his most ardent fan—may well be acclaimed the world's best custodian by the time the tournament is through.

The World Cup has also brought into focus the standard—or is it inclination?—of referees. It all began with the Spanish referee Augusto Lamo-Castillo's refusal to award

*A view of the opening ceremony*

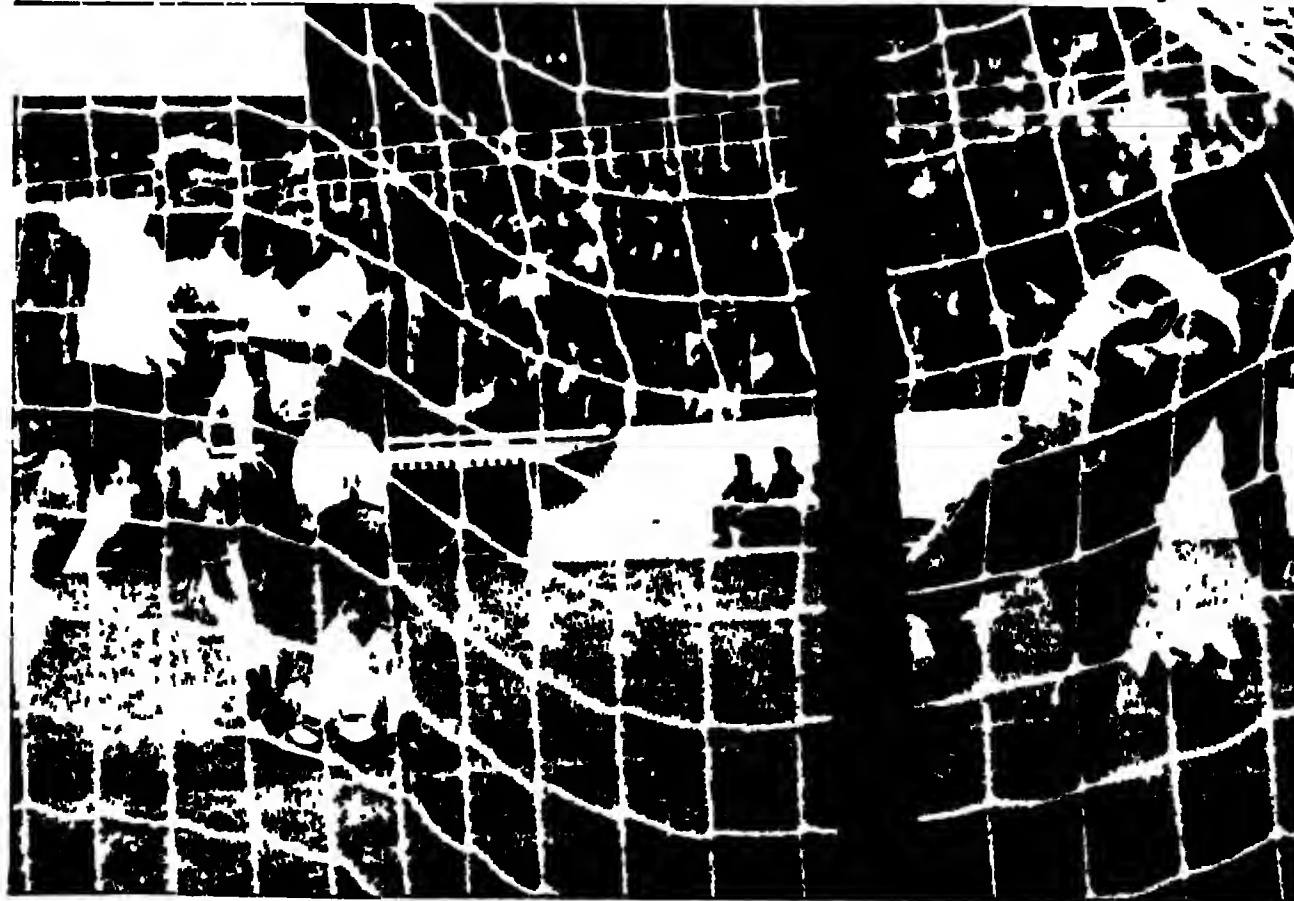


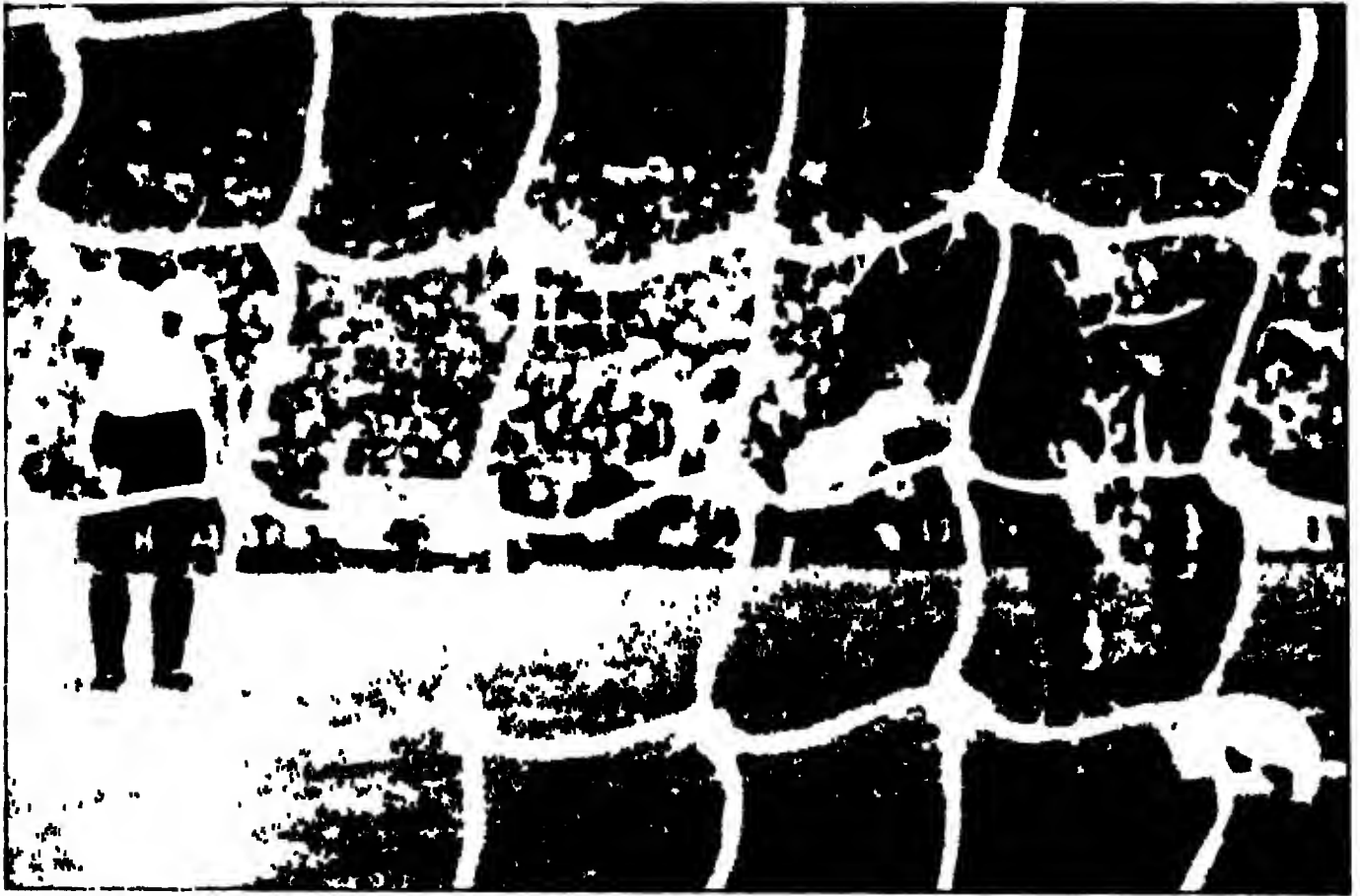




*Socrates equalizer for Brazil. The Soviet goalie Rinat Dasaev tries his best to stop the ball but in vain*

*Chile's goalkeeper Mario Obsen jumps to the side in a futile attempt to save a shot of Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (left). It was his second goal in the match*





Chile's Carlos Caszely (No. 13) misses a penalty in the 27th minute of the match against Austria

Gilberto Yearwood of Honduras makes a futile attempt to score during the match against Spain





# Sidelights

## WORLD CUP

### Belfast prodigy

WHEN Northern Ireland took the field against Yugoslavia at Zaragoza on June 17, Norman Whiteside became the youngest player to appear in any World Cup. At 17 years and 10 days of age, Whiteside is younger than when Pele took the world by storm in his first appearance. Having already gone through a cartilage operation—only six months ago—it was feared that he would not make it in the squad, let alone the first eleven. But then he recovered fast and was first choice as an attacker. Although the Manchester United striker from Belfast did not perform miracles, he played no mean part in Northern Ireland's draw with favored Yugoslavia.

### Ossie's dilemma

BROUGHT in with much fanfare after Argentina's 1978 World Cup triumph, Osvaldo Orosco Arce played with some distinction for Tottenham Hotspur. But the moment the Falklands crisis blew up, he had to leave for home. Since then, he has had a difficult time making up his mind. He finally started talking with St. Germaine officials. The Paris team will, in all probability, take him in after the World Cup. "I want to play for their next season. I certainly won't be with Spurs after what happened in the Falklands." This was his initial comment—just before the World Cup started. But after the match, it came a slight



Franz Beckenbauer (left) and Bobby Charlton

change in tune. "I admit I said I won't play for Spurs again. But now I don't rule out the possibility of going over to England and playing again, provided of course there are no further problems in those islands."

### Sleepy Robson

BRYAN ROBSON scored a World Cup record. Apart from scoring two goals, he

created a record for the quickest goal in World Cup history. One remembers how Holland scored one in 30 seconds against West Germany. There was another by Lacombe of France against Italy after 31 seconds of a 1978 World Cup tie. That was the fastest on record. This time, however, again in a pool match, Robson latched on to a back header by Butcher off a throw by Coppell

and volleyed the ball past French goalkeeper Ettori. It was then only the 27th second of the match.

While on Robson, do you know the secret of his success? Don't say Bryan "who"? any more. He scored a hat trick when, after his two goals for England, he scored one off the field when his wife gave birth to their second child again—a daughter—the day after England's victory over France. Robson's success, he insists, is due to the fact that his sleep covers exactly half of a 24-hour day.

### Unlucky 13

NUMBER 13 has always been unlucky for France's Footballer of the Year Michel Platini, the golden boy of French soccer. The latest inline is his team mate and fellow Medio Larios. The players have an uncanny understanding on the field. Unfortunately, they have fallen out off the same girl—Christelle. There would have been no cause for worry if Christelle was just another 23-year-old French girl in love with two 26-year-old men who happened to be famous footballers. But she was Platini's wife, while the No. 13 shirted Larios was already living with a girl friend. However, after a brief separation, the childhood sweethearts from a place called Nancy—who were married five years ago—were reunited and Larios was forgotten. Off the field, that is. On the ground, the understanding between the two appeared to have increased during the World Cup!

Every drop fights scalp dryness

**Vaseline**  
HAIR TONIC  
AND SCALP CONDITIONER



USSR at least two penalties in their match against Brazil. This was followed by a series of decisions—usually against the supposedly weaker teams.

The affair came to a boil when Kuwait met France in what was to be the turning point in the race for second position in Group Four. France won 4-1, but the game could quite easily have gone the other way. There were several niggling decisions—offsides and fouls committed just outside the penalty area by France—which were not seen by the Soviet referee or ignored by him. There were also three goals disallowed for France, but in each case a penalty offside decision was arrived at late. And Kuwait were denied a genuine goal for alleged pushing inside the box.

The upshot of it was a threatened walkout by the Kuwaitis when a whistle from the crowd, just before the French scored, distracted them. They hesitated and saw the ball in their own net. As the referee whistled a goal, the Kuwaitis started arguing and then walked towards the sideline. Heated arguments followed and then the referee changed his decision to that of offside. This was followed by the French threatening to walk out.

Meanwhile, some of the opposing players nearly came to blows. Finally, officials of the two teams suc-



*Erwin Vandenbergh of Belgium kneels on the ground raising his arms in joy after scoring for his team against Argentina.*

ceeded in getting their players to resume the match. Legally, the referee can always change his mind as long as the game has not re-started after a decision has been given. But this incident once again spotlighted the ineptitude or worse of some referees.

The Kuwaiti manager and Presi-

dent of the KFA, Sheikh Fahd Al-Sabeli, told his boys to continue with the game, but was openly critical of the FIFA. "The moment we saw a Soviet referee and a Rumanian linesman, we knew we had lost the match. How can they be neutral when they have a fellow-communist country like Czechoslovakia in the group? I think FIFA wants us to lose because of gate money. They will earn more if European teams qualify for the second round. They want crowd pullers, not good footballers", he said.

The incident was probed by FIFA. The referee submitted his report to the organising committee and the referees' panel and the technical committee debated the issue. After the report was studied and discussed, FIFA could have banned Kuwait from further participation. But a fine of 25,000 Swiss francs was imposed. The findings of the FIFA observer on the ground and the technical committee will determine the fate of the referee. He is not being given another match until then.

Of course, mistakes can be made. But if they are blatant, it leaves a bad taste in the mouth. Thankfully, this is not a serious problem so far with regard to Group One, where the first four matches failed to produce a result. And, until Italy played came soon it could not be known which team would qualify for the second



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# Man of the week

If there is one man who can lift Argentina from the depression of defeat, it is the five feet four inch bundle of muscle and music, Diego Maradona. He did not find his rhythm in Argentina's first match in the World Cup, but Barcelona—in fact the whole of Spain—came alive when the world champions met Hungary. Maradona conducted an all-embracing symphony that should not have ended in a mere 4-1 victory. The Argentines that day should have beaten Hungary by the margin with which the latter defeated El Salvador. Indeed, a fair scoresheet would have been Argentina 10, Hungary 1.

This complete dominance was due mainly to the form displayed by the little Maradona, who would have been the youngest player ever to enter the World Cup had the country's team manager, Cesar Luis Menotti, chosen him for the successful 1978 campaign. Unfortunately for Maradona, the two fell out and Menotti explained that the player was too young to take on the world.

But to that, later Maradona was born the fifth child of the eight that a poor railway worker of Buenos Aires had. Descended from Italian immigrants, Maradona grew up in squatter, but from a very early age played football—with plimsoles and tin cans.



His first club was Argentinos Juniors. He joined it at the age of 13, but was so thin that he had to be put on a daily and urgent dose of vitamins and injections to make him strong. He soon developed to be a very strong, muscular boy who was, at the same time, flashingly quick on and with the ball. His speed and control were so good that, at 16, he joined the Juniors' top team. It was, in fact, ten days before his 16th birthday. Barely four months later, he won his first international cap.

But, just as he seemed to be a regular in the Argentine squad, Menotti dropped him from the team for the World Cup at Jose C Paz. The public was stunned and angry, because Maradona had already become the most popular player in the country. But, in the sensational events of the World Cup, Menotti's mistake was forgotten.

By the time the twelfth World Cup came around

Maradona had become a national celebrity, to the unprecedented extent of the government stepping in to prevent the player from leaving the country for more lucrative pastures.

Even before that, Maradona had made his peace with the manager. He had said earlier that he had finished with Menotti and would never play for the country under the latter's stewardship. But he came back to a press conference to admit his mistake and even went to the extent of saying that perhaps Menotti was right in excluding him in 1978, because he was too young at the time. Menotti's answer was to blood him into the top level of football. First, he took him to the South American youth championship in Montevideo, then included him in the squad that toured Europe and, finally made him the kingpin in the FIFA World Youth Championship for the Coca Cola Cup in Japan. In each of these competitions Maradona was the cynosure of all eyes. Everywhere he was acknowledged as one of the finest ball players of the world.

Meanwhile, offers came pouring in. Juventus of Italy bid almost two million dollars for him, while Barcelona F.C. came up with a five million offer. By then Argentinos Juniors were almost bankrupt, so the

military regime in Buenos Aires stepped in with funds to transfer him to a leading local club, Boca, for a fee that was well over eight million dollars. And this did not include the beautiful house and car that was presented to him. Maradona, thus, was making over a million and a half dollars a year.

Boca, like Argentinos Juniors, was a happy hunting ground for Diego Maradona. He played well for the club and took it to greater heights than it had ever reached before. But he has had to pay a price for being rated the best footballer of the world at present. He is the natural choice for heavy tackles in any match particularly at the top level of competition. Many compare him with the great Pele.

But Maradona's head is still ruled by his heart. His first concern still remains his parents. 'They have given me everything. Now even if they ask for the moon, I must give it to them. Whatever I do, however much I earn, my first task is to make my parents comfortable and happy. Nothing I do for them is enough.'

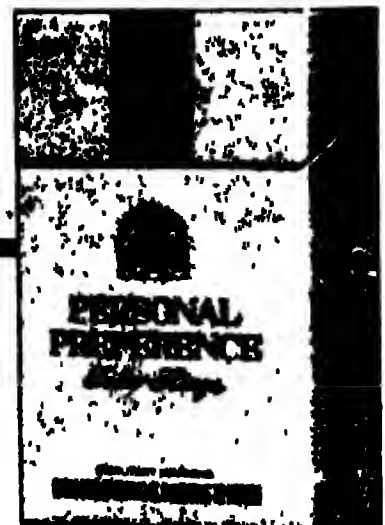


STATUTORY WARNING

CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

## PERSONAL PREFERENCE

### Filter Kings



round, apart from Poland, who thrashed Peru 5-1 in the fifth match.

The picture in Group Two was slightly clearer. Austria beat Chile 1-0 and Algeria 2-0. They had already qualified and were awaiting the fate of Algeria and West Germany to see which other team could move up. West Germany began disastrously, losing to Algeria 1-2, but recovered their composure to flog Chile 4-1, the injured captain and star striker Karl Heinz Rummenigge netting a hat-trick to stake his country's claim to higher honours. A lot depended on Algeria's encounter with Chile—the latter did not earn a point, while the former had two. But the deciding factor was to be the last tie between Germany and Austria.

In Group Three, the world champions, Argentina, struck from late, but were still not certain of a place in the next round where Belgium, who defeated them in a lacklustre open-

ing tie, had already assured themselves of a berth by beating El Salvador 1-0 in what was a tale of missed chances. Hungary had earlier trounced El Salvador 10-1 to notch up a World Cup record, but failed miserably against the Argentines, who ruined on the Maradona magic to win 4-1 in what was a patently one-sided encounter. Even so, both teams earned two points from two matches each. The decided game was to be the match between Belgium and Hungary, which ended in a draw. But the Argentines were far better off, having to meet El Salvador in the last match.

In Group Four, in which there has been the greatest commotion, England were already through to the second round, with four points from two matches. France had earned two, while Kuwait and Czechoslovakia a point each, all from two matches each. In the unlikely event of

Czechoslovakia holding France and Kuwait beating England in their last encounters, Kuwait could qualify. Otherwise, especially if one were to go by present form, France should go up comfortably.

Group Five was much more open, thanks to an inept display by the hosts, Spain. They began by scraping through to a draw against Honduras (1-1) and beating Yugoslavia 2-1 through a controversial penalty re-take. The first shot had gone out, but the referee felt the Yugoslav goalie had moved when the shot was being taken. The re-take produced a goal. Even so, Spain led the group with three points, while Northern Ireland had two and Yugoslavia one. If Yugoslavia beat Honduras by a comfortable margin, they should get through because Northern Ireland had to match the frenzied support for Spain when the two teams meet on June 25.

In the last group, Brazil were sitting pretty with full points from their two matches, while USSR and Scotland battled it out for the second place. Brazil did not do too well against the Soviet Union, but when they met Scotland, they sang a different tune. Scotland started out well, scoring first through David Narely who did well to shoot just when about to be squeezed out by two defenders.

But then a free kick from about 25 yards, taken by Zico, levelled terms. It was a brilliant banana, curling past the Scottish defence wall and finding the top of the net. In the second half, it was all Brazil. They wove a samba pattern—to the rhythmic beat of drums in the stadium and scored through a header by Oscar off a curling corner by Junior. Then came a superlative chip by winger Eder on the run, which beat the goalkeeper hands down. The last goal came after a combined move by Socrates and Seppinho found the latter tapping the ball for the advancing Falcão to boot home from well outside the penalty area. The scoresheet blanked out Scotland's goal difference.

It became 6-6 and allowed USSR to surge ahead on that point after they beat New Zealand 3-0. It was then left to the two contestants to thrash out the vital match, USSR needing only a draw and Scotland an outright victory. This match ended in a dramatic 2-2 draw, but it was enough for USSR.

The competition in Spain was only hotting up at that stage but there was a long way still to go for every team before the shimmering gold cup could be taken. While Brazil and Argentina were full of confidence, England were creeping up from behind. They did not play attractive soccer, but their functional prowess could see them through. One shuddered, however, to think about the gates it and when Spain fell to super-ior class.

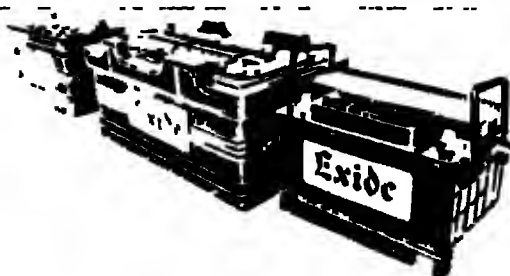


The New Zealand skipper, Steve Sumner, puts the ball past the Scotland custodian to score his team's first goal in the New Zealand-Scotland match. Scotland won 5-2.

# WORLD CUP *Action Photographs*



(Clockwise from top left)  
Soviet player Andrei Bel in  
an aggressive pose, Po-  
land's Zbigniew Boniek in a  
tackle with Antonio Cabrini  
of Italy, Soviet goalie Rinat  
Dasaev clears from Brazil's  
Zico, Belgian custodian  
Jean-Marie Pfaff saves a  
shot



Performance.  
That's what makes  
us No.

**1**

**Exide**

Still keeps going  
when the rest have stopped





# Argentine football match



WORLD CUP



# PROFILES

With  
Roy

Greenwood  
inside the team as  
prediction. We are going to  
win the year before the  
1966 World Cup, he  
predicted to a friend.

He was right with a baker's dozen.

And that was the  
way. The team already  
had a record seven  
consecutive wins. The  
West Ham team was  
in a state of euphoria.  
The team was playing  
like a team. The team  
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was playing like a team.

## Golden Boy Bobby

was looked when the time  
came for me to leave  
school. All my mates had  
gone off for trials with clubs  
around London but nobody  
seemed to want me. I  
thought I'd missed out. I  
wouldn't. But that was

West Ham called me up  
for a trial.

Thereafter I was a suc-  
cess. I was at the way. After  
that, in 1964, I was called  
up to the team. I was  
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pense of Munich, in a thrill-  
ing trial that is still regarded  
as the finest performance  
by a British team in the  
Continent. Again, the man



who was the leading spirit  
behind the team. Bobby  
Moore was the one who  
led the team. Bobby  
Moore was the one who  
led the team. Bobby  
Moore was the one who  
led the team. Bobby  
Moore was the one who  
led the team. Bobby  
Moore was the one who  
led the team.

of the morrow

Fame and fortune were  
close at hand. The former  
by virtue of his skill and the  
latter through his successes  
in the world of business. In  
fact, Moore's flair for  
money-making impressed  
even experienced  
businessmen. Said one of  
his business associates:

Since he has the cash  
opened a lot of doors. He  
Bobby. But he's not the main  
money. He's not the main  
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FABRICS

Winners all the way

# RECORDS

## Chloroformed by compatriot

ALSO in the 1930 tournament there occurred a rather strange incident involving the Belgian referee, the American team. The United States were playing Argentina and a bad foul occurred involving a player from the United States. The referee, who was Belgian, decided to stop the game and send the player to the hospital. The player, who was a member of the United States team, was taken to the hospital and died. The referee, who was Belgian, was also taken to the hospital and died. This was a very tragic incident and it was a great loss to the world of football.

## Ball diplomacy

But CAN referee John T. ... ..



Jules Rimet



Meazza receives the Cup for Italy—their second successive win—after beating Hungary

to see eye to eye over the use of a ball. Diplomatic relations were already strained between these two countries, so Lange used his discretion and ordered that the first half be played with an Argentine ball while the second half be played with one from Uruguay.

## Referee suspended

MERCI, a Swiss referee, was the first super-visor to be suspended, as a result of his spineless decisions during a 1934 encounter between Italy

and Spain. The match played in Firenze ended in a 1-1 tie. The referee, who was Swiss, was suspended for his decisions during the match.

about 100 men of the ... ..

## The first hat-trick

THE first hat-trick ... ..

## Five times

ALSO AN ... ..



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# Man of the week

PERSONAL FINANCE  
FRI 11 PM ET

WORLD C



Sportsworld



# PERSONAL PREFERENCE

## WORLD CUP



# MATCH OF THE WEEK

**T**he bewick-wed Jupp Derwall, manager of the West German team, is not giving his excesses the high priest's approval. Yet Schuster, under whom he worked at the World Cup winning squad of '74, Derwall's only triumph!

So when he quipped before the Germans opened the 1982 campaign in Spain that "Germany takes football Algeria's first opening game into it," would take the first in support home supporters and scribbles thought the Algerian side making their debut in the World Cup would be mere pushovers.

The Algerian Stadium, Asnam, on the northern coast, had a far-thinking of West German fans, but out 3,000 Algerians as the match between the European champion and the North African team started.

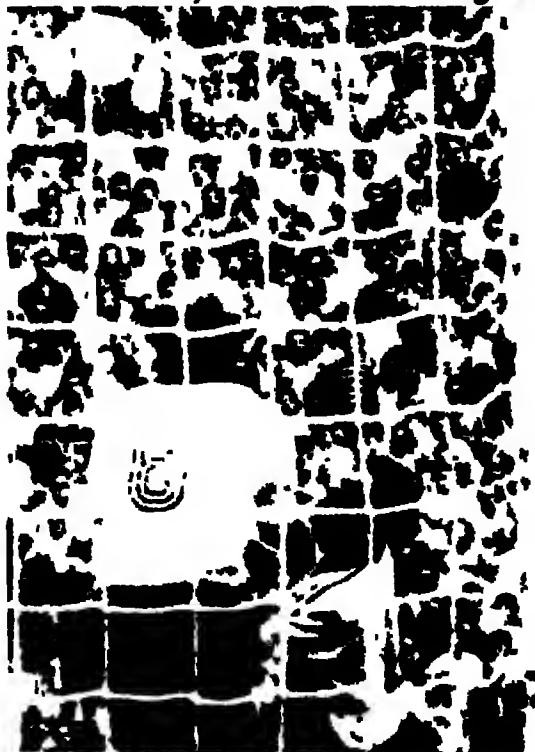
Within minutes it came to light as Algeria began to fight on equal terms. They appeared to be fast as all in the Germans' usually in counter-attacks both teams possessed a certain fire that had been denied by the Algerians, who had said they had come to Spain to learn from the "best" of the world, though not the supposedly least of countries a thing or two before the game came to a close.

In the 58th minute, Algeria's first goal of the Year 1982 was launched on a through ball and

riced into the penalty area and took a shot. It was partially saved by German custodian Schuster, but Rauli Mäkelä was on hand to slam it home.

Surprised by the course the German assault, repeatedly by and in the 57th minute, Mäkelä had to have "nothing" under control. He had a defender got to the goal, but the Algerian goalkeeper, who had sent the ball into the goal, was not by the European. Forthright!

**West Germany concede the first goal**



the rear. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, as he almost skied into the goal, taking the ball with him.

But German jubilation was short-lived as, exactly 60 seconds later, Salah Assad raced along the left, flipped the ball into the danger zone and Belloumi pounded on the ball to leave Schuster groping. That was the end of the goal scoring, but not the German efforts to equalise. They did go desperately forward in a bid to wipe out the shame. But they did not

succeed and Algeria did what the United States had done to England in 1950. But that match had been decided by a single goal. This one saw the underdogs come back again after the would-be world champions had drawn level and were expected to rout the newcomers.

The game revealed that the Germans were not invincible and like the Argentinians were susceptible to pace. The Algerians had set a cracking pace and maintained it throughout the 90-minute encounter.

Although the Germans' approach work was good, they did not kick as a team up front. But what seems ominous in these early stages of the competition is the fact that the German defence is not only unpredictable but tends to crack under pressure.

Surprisingly, this was not the first time that Algeria had beaten West Germany. They had marked a clear 2-0 margin back in 1964. This time the Algerian manager Mahdoui Khazri said: "The West Germans were strong opponents, but today we saw their flaws and took advantage of them. Our team still lacks some scoring ability, but that is more or less a psychological problem."

If the Germans carry any bitter memories of the 11th World Cup, it will be this nerve-wracking misadventure with Algeria.

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# King John's title defence begins

ASHIS RAY reports from Wimbledon

**T**HE All England Championship without Bjorn Borg is hard to believe. But that's the reality of the 1982 tournament, as the five-time champion, on his own admission, spends his time practising with his wife and coach, and otherwise, following events on television.

The impact of the Swede's absence, along with that of the Czech Ivan Lendl, and the Argentines, Jose Luis Clerc, and Guillermo Villas, (the last two for political reasons), was felt on the opening day, when the attendance dropped by 8,500 on last year's figure.

Somehow, the stimulation that accompanies the raising of the curtain on this 'championship of championships' was simply not there. Of course the gloomy weather forecast—which proved to be accurate—and the industrial action on the London Underground deterred most fans from making the annual pilgrimage on the first day. But the underlying disinterest, admitted or not, was undoubtedly the absence of the ever popular Borg.

But the man defending the mantle was back. And indeed, the colourful and controversial John Patrick McEnroe breezed through his first round match on Centre Court to indicate that whoever dethrones him will have to perform extraordinarily well to do so.

His opponent was fellow American Van Winitsky, 22, a rival since both were twelve and who won the Junior Wimbledon title the year McEnroe was making his first meteoric march to the semi-finals at the age of seven.

Winitsky, however, has not realised his early promise, and last year, despite winning the Hong Kong Grand Prix, was afflicted by a shoulder injury for most of the time. In fact, even if the holder had played badly, he would have had little difficulty in cruising into the second round, since his adversary committed too many unforced errors to give rise to any concern.

All the same, McEnroe being a perfectionist, uncoiled the full repertoire of his strokes, from devastating serves to dainty dinks, to prevail 6-2, 6-2, 6-3. It was a matter of just 75 minutes.

The Centre Court crowd at Wimbledon has a tradition of rooting for the underdog or any one who is play-

ing indifferently. In other words, what they seek is a good contest, and every time Winitsky showed any semblance of a fight, this was cheered lustily.

These occasions, however, were few and far between. Once for instance, Winitsky came up trumps in an intense net duel, and the roof of the stands almost exploded with the resultant applause. But the support was not adequate to sustain the competition. The champion, irrespective of the mild brushes with authority, was just not in the mood—as is generally the case—to oblige



On the adjacent Court Number One, while McEnroe was launching the tourney in the customary manner, the Number Two seed, and the man likeliest to trouble the New Yorker this year Jimmy Connors, was signalling an equally impressive start to his campaign.

Champion in 1974, Connors' hurdle was the South African Myburg and the latter not unexpectedly succumbed 6-0, 6-2, 6-2. As usual, the American's power-packed ground strokes skimmed across the lush green court with electrifying effect and he appears to be in great form and in the correct frame of mind to

rattle McEnroe.

In fact, he defeated his younger compatriot in the final at Queen's Club to issue a serious warning to the unofficial world champion, and a meeting between the two in the ultimate stage at Wimbledon could be a match to remember. But Connors has to be wary of a gentleman called Vijay Amritraj, who can upset the calculations of most prospective champions if he strikes form. Vijay is in the same half as Connors once again.

The Indian, this time, most sensibly, has withdrawn from the doubles. The idea being, as always recommended by the great coach Harry Hopman, to concentrate on singles.

The fast-serving Tanner, in fact, is likely to confront him in the third round. But that, too depends on Amritraj getting past the fairly incisive Jeff Borowiak in the first round, a match which was postponed on the first day because of the weather. Amritraj, in fact, spent a part of the afternoon watching his Davis Cup colleague Ramesh Krishnan struggle but eventually get the better of the Briton Andrew Jarrett 6-4, 2-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2. Shashi Menon, incidentally, had a much easier time disposing of the Czech Pavel Slozil 6-2, 7-6, 6-0.

But a final word about Amritraj. By winning the Tokyo tournament recently, he has emphasised that he is currently in very good touch. And although he was within two points of being eliminated in the qualifying rounds (the ignominy of having to qualify was thrust on him as a result of his non-participation in any Grand Prix tournament this year), he has the confidence to do well on grass, his favourite surface—and it is about time he proved his worth at Wimbledon.

So, a gloomy rain affected start to this year's All England, and as has been mentioned, in the absence of the mercurial Borg. But compensation significantly enough has come from another Swedish source—the seventeen-year-old Mats Wilander, who sooner than later will hold aloft the trophy on Centre Court.

Semi-finalist in Rome, winner of the French Open, this teenager surely is another Borg. Indeed, shaped in that familiar mould of topspin drives and the two-handed backhand, he is to chicken on grass. In fact, he is more willing than Borg, yet was at his age to come on to the net and settle the issue in the manner the surface demands. He has a good enough serve to enable him to adopt that attacking posture.

Yes, it was this lad who lifted the haze of a London afternoon and the hearts of schoolgirls by beating Heinz Gunthardt of Switzerland in four sets on the opening day. He possibly lacks the consistency to win this time. But keep track of this boy, he is sure to go places.

SPORTS WORLD  
MARTINA NAVRATILOVA  
AP

IN



# Are Wimbledon's days of glory numbered?

GEORGE K. GEORGE examines the question

**H**OW can someone be conspicuous by his or her absence? It certainly looks as if it is happening at Wimbledon this year and more is being said and written about the top five men who are missing the tournament this year. Does it mark the beginning of a revolt against the oligarchy of the All England Club? It could very well be. The desertion that John Patrick McEnroe Jr began at the sanctuary of world tennis seems to be spreading gradually.

Two years ago none of the young players might have made some of the statements on Wimbledon that have been made recently. Ironically enough this year's assault on Wimbledon has been pioneered by its perennial idol Bjorn Borg. Ivan Lendl, Flot Tetscher and Harold Solomon also joined the assault in their own way.

It took the ruthless guts of a young New Yorker to tell the Wimbledon establishment 'You are the pits of the world. Anyone used to the American slang would not have taken it as an offence but Wimbledon, ably assisted by the British Press, led a crusade against the rebellious McEnroe. But the 'Prince of Wails' as they called him, had the last laugh.

One cannot approve of John McEnroe's behaviour as a whole at last year's Wimbledon. But the young man had a point. The players deserve to get some respect and breathing space. Most of the young players today cannot understand why there should be regulations against minor things like grunting while serving. More so, because tennis is no longer the amateur sport of royalty. It is an extremely competitive spectator sport and has been built up into a gladiator's art rather than an exercise of feudal etiquette.

This year's Wimbledon will miss five of the top 10 men in the game today. One feels really sorry for the talented Guillermo Vilas, who has been enjoying his second-best career streak and is certainly one of the major casualties of the Falklands dispute. With Bjorn Borg out of the field, Vilas had a splendid opportunity of capturing the one title that has always eluded him. Jose Luis Clerc, number five at the moment, will be another prisoner of the same war. After last summer's splendid spell,

Bjorn Borg boycotted this year's Wimbledon because he was asked to play through the qualifying rounds. The rule states that any player who has not entered 10 Grand Prix events

by December 1982 would have to qualify. Borg missed a few tournaments during his leave of absence. Wimbledon was willing to compromise a bit by letting him extend the December deadline to the end of March 1983. Borg declined on a point of principle.

Also missing will be Ivan Lendl, the number four, the Young Turk who has earned over a million dollars already this year. Lendl, who had lost the first round to Charlie Fencott last year, gave three reasons for his absence. Firstly he said that he had to tune up for the Davis Cup match in July. But he knew that the reason was not so sound, so he said that he didn't like the tournament because he didn't get enough practice opportunity. Finally he maintained that he could not put up with the way the Wimbledon lords treated common folk like him. Those who know Ivan know the real reason. He hates to lose.

He knows that at present he does not have a chance to win Wimbledon. What he wants to do now is to keep his record as unblemished as possible and earn as much money as he

## Wimbledon listens

**Y**OU bet Wimbledon is quite aware of what is going on. Proof? Just look at the changes introduced for this year's competition.

It has raised the prize money by 41 per cent.

It has added an extra day, a Sunday for the men's final.

It has published a 16 page brochure for the players—something that has never been done before.

Better practice facilities and increased ticket allowances have resulted.

A dialogue with John McEnroe Sr, who is his son's manager, will be held to avoid the repetition of last year's troubles and to establish better communication with the reigning champion.

Establishment of a player liaison committee.

Sir Brian Burnett will make an appearance at the Association of Tennis Professionals' annual meeting.

He has promised to choose the umpires more carefully.

can. He realises that he cannot be the number one without winning Wimbledon but being the most crafty opportunist in the game today, he will wait for the appropriate moment. Borg is out of his way, McEnroe has a mental block against him and Connors, his nemesis, has not played him for some time. Though he initially announced that he would not enter Wimbledon, he was again floating with the idea after winning the Tournament of Champions. But after the shock treatment from Mats Wilander at Paris he withdrew with honour. He knows that he has plenty of time and will probably emerge as Connors fades away and McEnroe cracks under the pressure of continuously being the number one.

John McEnroe will have to face Wojtek Fibak, Ili Nastase, Andrei Gomez, Johan Kriek or Mats Wilander on his way to the final and has a tougher draw than Connors. He doesn't seem keen to add the whole of England to that list. He is subdued now and somehow the 'kill' seems to be missing. But he is too dedicated a professional to treat something like Wimbledon with ease. But he is out to avoid controversy. 'I wouldn't want to win Wimbledon again if it meant going through the same scenes as last year,' he says. Being a man of his word, McEnroe might come out of it very restrained.

In the women's division the number one seed, Martina Navratilova, seems to be all set for a comeback. Somehow, Chris Evert Lloyd seems to be lacking the urge to win. Surprisingly, she has entered in the doubles with Kathy Rinaldi as her partner, the youngest woman professional and in the mixed doubles with her brother John. Her husband is teaming up with Wendy Turnbull. These distractions might just affect Evert's performance.

Andrea Jaeger and Tracy Austin meanwhile, are not in perfect physical condition. Hana Mandlikova, who has done very little since last year's finals, and Evonne Cawley are very unpredictable. The latter could upset almost anyone or could blow out in the very first round while Billie Jean King could do the same, too.

Predictions are meaningless in such a situation. But one thing is obvious: Wimbledon, which has increased the prize money and facilities for the players, is no longer as sacrosanct as it used to be.

More players are realising that they don't have to play at Wimbledon to become stars and millionaires. Still, the young breed of the calibre of Mats Wilander and veterans like Jimmy Connors and Evonne Cawley will let it reign supreme for years to come. Remember the gates in 1973 when all the professionals were out of the tourney? Even then they registered a record attendance.

# Our critics know very little

In an exclusive interview with SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, the secretary of the All-India Football Federation, ASHOKE GHOSH, replies to the criticism the federation has been facing since it took up the responsibility of preparing the Indian team for the forthcoming Asian Games at Delhi

**SPORTSWORLD** The AIFF is becoming increasingly involved in controversies. Almost every decision and measure it adopts is liable to be disputed and criticised. What do you think are the reasons for such a situation?

**ASHOKE GHOSH** Yes, that is true to some extent. The AIFF has come under tremendous fire from various quarters since it has taken over the responsibility of preparing the Indian football team for the forthcoming Asian Games at Delhi.

This has resulted in a great deal of inconvenience with regard to the smooth working of the federation. We always found it difficult to take an honest decision lest it should touch off yet another round of criticism from the so-called sports pundits of our country, who in reality are not aware of the way things are being handled by the federation.

The fact is that most of the criticism is baseless, so there is no need for any controversy. They are being brought up deliberately and at times unwittingly by some people who are not really in a position to question the wisdom of the decisions of the federation.

By that I mean that they are not well informed and sufficiently conversant with the technical aspects of training, nor do they have the will to make an in-depth study of the whole situation before giving vent to their so-called expertise.

**SW** Who are these people? Do you mean the Press?

**AG** Well, I'm not blaming the Press as a whole. But to some extent a section of the Press has indulged in misrepresenting the actual state of affairs.

Take the case of team selection. Some people have grown used to taking for granted the fact that well-known players will be given a berth in the national team. These people do not bother to go to the coaching camps to assess the current situation and gauge for themselves the form of these players. Such a practice would give them a clear picture of the whole situation. Instead, they continue to nurture their own opinions that are formed on the basis of these players' past performances.

The point is that every player has

good and bad patches in his career. It is physically impossible for anyone to maintain the same form throughout one's career. A particular man may have played extraordinarily at some stage of his career, but it does not necessarily follow that he will always be at peak form.

The problem is that some people tend to base their judgements on the past performances of players. Some memorable feats achieved in the past by some players are referred to in order to justify their cases. 'Oh, Mihir, what an excellent player he is. Have you forgotten that beautiful goal he scored against China during the Nehru Gold Cup?'

Now this is something absolutely silly and childish. The authorities governing the most popular game in this country cannot go along with such nonsense, with the country's honour at stake. Had past performances been the only criterion then we need not have held so many camps. Our task would also have been much easier then no doubt (laughs).

**SW** Do you think this is the case with the hue and cry that has been raised about Mihir's exclusion from the team?

**AG** Yes, absolutely so. The critic

*Ashoke Ghosh*



ism stemmed from the premise that since he had played well over the last couple of seasons he should be given a berth in the team. But what about his performances at the camp? Okay, let's forget about the camp. Let's come to the current football league. How is he doing there?

I don't think you would be honest if you said that his display is up to standard. And his showing at the camp was not very encouraging either. Yet there was this uproar raised by a section of the Press and we had to suffer it. The point is that these people only displayed their own ignorance by protesting. They did not understand the actual situation. And that is the story of the so-called controversies.

But that was not all. Even more serious charges were levelled against us regarding the living conditions at the Bangalore camp. At one stage it was said that the food served at the camp was not palatable. But that was an absolute lie. I had lunch there with the players on several occasions and I found the food all right. I wonder how these things find their way to the newspapers.

In fact, deliberate attempts are being made by some people to poison the whole atmosphere. I don't know whose interests are going to be served in this way but the fact is that we are now faced with two problems simultaneously. On one hand we have to fight against the charisma of some players in the matter of selection and on the other we have to shield the federation against misreporting.

We are really having a harrowing time trying to tackle all this.

Yet at the same time we have achieved considerable progress. Don't you think that India is now a much more powerful side after the training camp. Our showing in the Nehru Gold Cup bore this out, so too our performances in the President's Cup at Seoul.

**SW** But can you deny that complaints are coming from the players themselves?

**AG** Well, some players are dissatisfied and have begun grumbling against the decisions of the AIFF. But who are they? Most of these players have not even been selected.



Maybe they are not happy because they cannot accept the reality that they are not fit to be included in the national side. Perhaps disappointment has hurt them severely. Attempts are being made to create an issue out of that by blowing things out of proportion. I must make it very clear, however, that the sole criterion was performance and no thing else.

Take the case of Kartick Bett, whose exclusion has created quite a stir among soccer followers in the State. Nobody knows what an ordeal we had to go through before taking the final decision. Kartick was quite up to the mark. In fact, he was playing quite satisfactorily. But there was one person—whose name I can't mention—who was competing with him for place in the team. Both were equally good and we found ourselves in a very delicate and tricky position as we had to choose one of the two. There was only a hairbreadth difference in the respective performances of these two players.

But Kartick himself made the job easier for us to some extent by failing completely in the three trial matches. It was quite unexpected but we had to make our final decision on that basis. Besides, the other player who was competing for the spot continued to play very well.

Yet I must say that we all really felt bad about it, not only because Kartick missed the bus despite his best efforts and praiseworthy performances, but also because we knew that our decision was going to draw severe fire from various quarters, the reason being that Kartick had already made a name for himself and is a Calcutta player.

Here I would like to draw your attention to one very disquieting trend in the Calcutta Press. Whenever a player of this State is dropped from the team or not selected, a hue and cry is always raised. We face incredible criticism from every quarter.

But when a deserving player from any other province falls victim to injustice and get the axe not a word of protest is heard from you. This has been a long standing practice and it is spreading day by day. Even worse, when a Calcutta player of lesser calibre is preferred to a better player from any other State, you people keep mum. It shows how biased the Press has become.

SW: Coming back to the question of team selection, you are saying that Mihir's exclusion from the team was justified. Then, how do you account for the fact that Mihir was kept in the second team throughout the training at the Bangalore camp?

AG: No, there was no such thing as a second team at the camp. Even if there was one, it does not mean that only the discards were involved or for that matter, any injustice was meted out to these players by includ-



Mihir Bose—poor performance

ing them in the second team. True Mihir was there but wasn't Harinder in the side too? He has been selected and this was solely on the basis of his performance at the camp which was undoubtedly excellent.

SW: Who has the final say in the matter of team selection?

AG: Well, though the final decision making body comprises the President of the AIFF, the selection committee chairman, and myself, we depend on the opinions of the technical committee—the foreign technical director, Dettmer Pfeifer, Mohammed Basha, Ahmed Hussain, P. K. Banerjee, Hakim and Arjun Ghosh. They usually take joint decisions which we accept.

Of course this does not mean we always endorse their views without any question. We do express our doubts and misgivings, but that is only for the sake of discussion and exchange of opinions. However, I want to emphasise at the same time that we too have our rights and we do exercise them at times.

SW: Didn't PK have the final say?

AG: Yes, that is true to a large extent. On many occasions I have seen the other members of the technical committee defer to his opinions, especially during discussions and debates among themselves. The

**We always found it difficult to take an honest decision lest it should touch off another round of criticism from the so-called sports pundits of our country who in reality are not aware of the way things are being handled by the federation.**

others have given their views, but awarded their suggestions, but in the end they have accepted PK's choice.

SW: But of late rumour has it that PK no longer enjoys that degree of control over things. The opinions of Dettmer Pfeifer are being given more importance than those of the national coach. Is this true?

AG: No absolutely not. This is nothing but a rumour. Pfeifer also gives his views but priority is always attached to PK's suggestions. Even during the last selection process, on one occasion we had resorted to voting over the choice of a player whose name I'm not disclosing.

After the voting we heard Pfeifer say that we should give preference to PK's decision. Actually, our choice was restricted between two players of almost equal merit and we were at a loss about whom to take. In such situations we generally leave the choice to the national coach.

SW: Can you deny the fact that the AIFF is still ridden with group politics, causing much harm to the cause of Indian soccer?

AG: To tell you frankly at present we are tired of this malaise. I'm not going to comment on what happened in the past. The present selection process went through on a more or less unanimous basis without any ill feeling or misunderstanding among the decision making authorities. Everything has been carried out in a very frank, amiable atmosphere.

Maybe because we have now come so close to the Asian Games past differences have largely been buried. We are now concerned about only one thing—the performance of the Indian team. Our objective is to determine how the best can be achieved with such a short period to go before the final test.

The basic fact remains that if the team fails in the Asian Cup the blame will rest squarely on the AIFF. On the other hand, it is the AIFF to whom the credit will go if our team can come out with flying colours. This is the dominant feeling among the members of the federation at present.

SW: Then what about the differences you had to face over the question of captaincy?

AG: Well there were some differences, but we managed to tide over them.

SW: And there was a move to deny Bhaskar the honour of captaincy?

AG: Yes that's true. Actually, Harinder Singh's name was strongly seconded for the post of captain.

SW: Who proposed it?

AG: Sorry, I can't disclose that. He is a top ranking official of the federation and I don't want to rake up the past. My point was that though Harinder was a must in the team there was no reason to deprive Bhaskar of the honour.

SW: On what grounds was the name of Harinder proposed?

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**AG:** Harjinder's seniority to Bhaskar. He had played in the India team before Bhaskar. Actually, when Bhaskar became the captain of the India team for the Nehru Gold Cup, Harjinder was injured and that was why he did not play in the matches. Later, before the last selection, it was reasoned that since Harjinder had recovered from his injury, the captaincy should go to him.

I raised the point that Harjinder was not one hundred per cent fit. There was still some uncertainty regarding his taking part in all the matches. Compared to that, Bhaskar had a definite advantage over Harjinder as captain. A goalkeeper captain is always an asset to the team as he can see all the moves of the players from behind. This helps him to direct the game. I insisted on these plus points.

**SW:** Did the coaches want Bhaskar to be the captain?

**AG:** Yes, everybody.

**SW:** Nobody proposed Harjinder's name?

**AG:** No.

**SW:** And yet you had to fight so hard to ensure Bhaskar's inclusion as skipper.

**AG:** Yes, I had to do that.

**SW:** Does not it go to show that officials intervene and try to impose their likes and dislikes whenever it comes to taking the most important decisions?

**AG:** Well, I have already told you that we have the right to put forward our suggestions and opinions.

**SW:** But can you describe these things as just offering one's views and suggestions?

**AG:** Yes, why not?

**SW:** Anyway, do you think that the President of the AIFF, Mr. Ziauddin is trying to gain control over team selection through Deitmer Pfeifer and in this way to fight the dominance of Bengal players in the Indian team?

**AG:** Why do you think so?

**SW:** You must have heard of the strange theory of 'virgin eye' that he has been propagating lately which says that since Pfeifer is a foreigner his judgements on players must be free of bias. Surely this is a ploy to give him absolute sway in the matter of team selection?

**AG:** Look, if Ziauddin and Pfeifer had been in collusion, then Pfeifer would never have wanted Subrata in the team. Do you know who stood in



*Bhaskar Ganguly in action—no cause for worry*

the way of Subrata's inclusion in the team? (Mr. Ghosh provided the answer himself but insisted that it should be reconsidered off the record.)

Moreover, Deitmer has praised the Bengal players the most.

**SW:** What was the problem with Subrata?

**AG:** He was asked to play as a sweeper, not as a stopper. As I have heard from PK and Basha, Subrata performed brilliantly as a sweeper at Pyong Yong—one of the best in his career. We defeated China by four goals and Subrata's contribution was the most to that victory.

I don't know what happened to him after that. He declined to play in that position and stuck to his guns.

That was the beginning of the trouble. After that he was tried once again at Bangkok and played in his favourite position. Here again he could not repeat his earlier spectacular performances. Now, Pfeifer has prescribed the solution to his problems: that he should play as a sweeper. Subrata has been described as an ideal sweeper. He has ball control, his tackling is good, he is tall, a good header—the only man in that role.

**SW:** Then why was he not included in the team? There must have been pressure from the federation hierarchy to keep him out of the team. To be more specific, he had some trouble with the federation President Ziauddin and Subrata was in the latter's bad books. Isn't that the main reason for his ouster from the team?

**AG:** Well, that happened much earlier. Once Deitmer Pfeifer chose him, the problem was erased. Nobody objected to his inclusion in the team, not even Ziauddin. But it was he who declined to play as a sweeper. There was nothing more we could do.

**SW:** Do you also believe in the theory of "virgin eye"?

**AG:** Yes, I subscribe to this view of Ziauddin. We called Subrata to the camp because we believe that Deitmer is above all these controversies and personal problems. Therefore,

his opinion should be given precedence over all other factors. Some other players were also called up to the camp according to Deitmer's choice, for instance, Rebello and Francis De Souza. Rebello was actually asked by the federation to join the camp, but he failed to do so. As for the latter, Pfeifer considered him a good striker.

And if Francis can make his way into the team, then somebody will have to be dropped from the team of 26.

**SW:** Whom are you going to drop?

**AG:** Obviously, the person whose performance is the poorest.

**SW:** But would you agree that it is at such a stage that backstage manipulations and manoeuvres are mostly carried out?

**AG:** Yes, that's true. However, we can't help but depend on the report of the technical committee. This time we have adopted some measures to prevent such things. We have sought neutral opinions from some knowledgeable persons, like the chairman of the coaching committee Air Vice Marshal P. P. Singh, who had gone to Seoul with the team. He will provide me with his own view of things, devoid of any preconceived notion. And we will be able to crosscheck the report of the others against his.

All this time, we have been sending the full technical committee on tours abroad but we are now trying new methods to ensure an unbiased selection assessment of the players. That is not to say that the members of the selection committee are in-

**Had past performances been the only criterion then we need not have held so many camps. Our task would also have been much easier then, no doubt.**

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P. K. Banerjee—has the final say

dulging in favouritism but they are staying with the players. Naturally, there are chances that they might develop prejudices for or against certain players. What else can we do?

SW: Was 26 the original number?

AG: No, at first we planned to keep 29 players and six standbys in the team but we later reduced the number.

SW: But you recently declared that none of the players will be released from the camp.

AG: Yes I did. But later we found it necessary to change the decision.

SW: Don't you think that the credibility of the federation suffered severely after you went back on your words?

AG: Yes but we had no other option. Let me explain the whole thing. After the last camp the technical committee realised that some players would not be included in the team in all likelihood considering their performances in the training camps. In that case we thought it better to release them else their careers would have suffered. Besides, they would have been psychologically handicapped sitting on the sidelines all the time, with their colleagues playing before their eyes. We decided to spare them such an ordeal. Today they are playing for their respective clubs. Now tell me, have we caused them any harm? Yet we had to suffer so much criticism. It's not healthy, it's not constructive.

SW: But how do you account for the treatment meted out by the federation to Aloke Saha?

AG: Once again I want to point out that questions are being raised about Aloke Saha only because he is a Calcutta player. Has anybody ever bothered to write a word about Ancil D'Silva, that luckless player who had attended all the camps from Salt Lake onwards? He left no stone unturned to win a place in the team, but had to leave the camp a dis-

appointed man. We were to take three goalies and we got them: Bhaskar number one, Brahmanand number two and Atanu number three. It's a competition and the number of berths are limited. Hence, everybody cannot be included. Some people do not seem to realise that. It's a pity.

SW: How would you assess the role of your President Mr. Ziauddin who has become a controversial figure in Bengal?

AG: If India can come out successful in the Asiad, the credit will go to nobody else but Ziauddin. He has been the leading spirit behind the entire enterprise. But for him, we could never have had such a scientifically chalked out training programme for our players. At first we were given a plan worked out by the NIS, but that was not up to the standard.

It was he who went to Kuwait and

**Well, some players are dissatisfied and have begun grumbling against the decisions of the AIFF. But who are they? Most of these players have not even been selected.**

got a detailed training scheme chalked out by the FIFA and AFC technical committees present there. After that the NIS plan was scrapped and we started working on the new one. But the pity is that deliberate attempts had been made and are still being made to create a misunderstanding between us by some people who want to reap profits from the resultant confusion. In fact, some problems did brew up between us at one time, but later we realised that they were caused by some people who actually want to gain control over the federation through a rift between us.

A lot of lies have been told to him about me in an attempt to breed enmity between us. People who have tried unsuccessfully to only favour with him have come to me with the same purpose and vice versa. Their method has been to say things against one to the other. At one stage we could not figure out what was going on. The whole atmosphere was

**But Kartick himself made the (selection) job easier for us to some extent by failing completely in the three trial matches. It was quite unexpected, but we had to make our final decision on that basis.**



K. Ziauddin—the leading spirit

so poisonous that I could not see any way out of this impasse. Among those who hatched these conspiracies were some influential people from Calcutta.

But we tide over those periods of crisis and Ziauddin and I have taken a vow not to fall prey to the evil designs of those people any longer. We have made it a point that neither of us will make a statement or decision without prior consultation, even if that means my going down to Bombay or his coming here. We are going to prevent any further controversies and so far he has been greatly cooperative towards me. In fact I am to some extent indebted to him for the help he has rendered me.

SW: Is Bhaskar going to be retained as captain of the team for the Asian Games also?

AG: If he can maintain his form, nobody can dislodge him from his position. As I have already told you, the first qualification of the captain is that he must be a regular in the team. Therefore, if Bhaskar can remain the first goalkeeper, he will remain the captain too. And so far as the Seoul tournament is concerned he has no reason to be worried. His performance was fairly good there.

SW: What about the construction work of the stadia where the matches will be held during the Asiad?

AG: Everything is nearing completion very fast and likely to be completed by July. In September we are going to hold a mini tournament to check if all the systems and facilities are working properly. All the three stadia, the main stadium, Ambedkar and Model town will be used. It's a sort of dress rehearsal before the final show.

SW: Has there been any attempt by the leading football clubs of the country, especially Calcutta, to get their players released from the camps?

AG: No never. Competition from them has always been forthcoming.

**CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

# Setback for Mohammedan S.C.

While the contest for the league honours has begun in right earnest, the 'Big Three' continue to show inconsistency. Though East Bengal and Mohun Bagan have kept their slates clean thus far, the defending champions Mohammedan Sporting met with a setback when they drew against Howrah Union **SUBHASH SARCAR** and **SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL** report on the matches

**EAST BENGAL.** The main reason for East Bengal's inconsistent performance so far in the current league has been their lack of a definite strategy without which a team cannot make any impression even when it wins a match by as convincing a margin as 3-0. That was precisely the case with the big club when they took on the weakest team in the running for the league title, Customs. One goal they scored in the first half and added two more in the second. Yet, never could they rise to the expected heights during the match, making a number of mistakes which are not expected of a top ranking team like them.

Firstly, they took a long time to bring cohesion in their game and remained more or less unsettled throughout the first half, while, on the other hand, the Customs forwards continued to make clever moves through short passes and quick movement, thus keeping the East Bengal defenders busy all the time. Not only that, they also came quite close to scoring on a number of occasions, threatening to cause a major upset in the league position so far. But poor finish and marks-manship proved their undoing.

So also was the case with the East Bengal forwards who kept missing

chances—quite a number of them being fairly easy—until Arup Das compensated for his earlier mistakes by banging in the first goal for his side.

The second session once again saw a number of easy chances to be missed by the East Bengal frontliners, Arup Das being the first to achieve such a feat.

**EAST BENGAL'S** next match, against Wari, however, told a vastly different story. The team seemed to have left behind all their shortcomings that have been plaguing them constantly since the start

*Karick Seti infringes against a Wari defender. East Bengal won 2-0.*





of the league and achieved an easy 2-0 victory over Wari. The secret of their improved performance was good combination between the half-liners and the forwards, all of whom worked tirelessly to send the rival defence in disarray. Added to it was the help coming from the deep defenders who, on one hand, made the defence zone virtually impregnable and initiated swift, clever moves on the other—something quite unseen so far in the league campaign. All this helped the two strikers Surjit Chakraborty and Kartick Sett to make repeated attempts on the Wari citadel. Even Amalraj was in splendid form. Shrugging off his lethargy, seen during the team's previous outings, he became a constant source of help for the forwards. Besides, he made some solo efforts also which unfortunately never ticked, due mainly to last minute tumbling, the ball flying over the crosspiece on one occasion or the shot being taken feebly on the other. But, relentless, he kept trying till the end of the match.

However, the man who played the most useful role was Balar Mukherjee. Running like a shuttle between the offence and defence, he coordinated the attacks and at the same time helped the other defenders at moments of need. In one word his was an all round performance, something seen for the first time in the Fast Bengal team in the current league.

On the other hand, Wari were always on the receiving end, busy most of the time containing the seemingly ceaseless forays from the Fast Bengal side. However, they made a few attacks, but they were not powerful enough to put the Bengal defenders in trouble. To sum up, this was a performance that must



*Cussons goalkeeper Kushal Banerjee bats the ball before Md Akbar can make an attempt*

have instilled tremendous confidence in the Fast Bengal players as well as their supporters.

**MOHUN BAGAN** A victory by a margin of four goals, which Mohun Bagan registered against Salkia Friends, is undoubtedly impressive. But, for Mohun Bagan it was not an unblemished win as they had to concede their first goal in the league, due mainly to their overconfident attitude towards the end of the game. Except for the goal the match proved to be yet another easy affair for the big club.

However, Mohun Bagan took some time to settle down, especially the defenders who seemed somewhat disoriented in the first 15-20 minutes of the game and the Salkia Friends forwards sought to reap profits from it by making quick inroads into the

Mohun Bagan defence zone, thereby creating some scoring opportunities which the Bagan defenders had a hard time to neutralise.

The forwards, however, were always on the lookout for an early breakthrough and eventually got it in the 14th minute. It was the result of a good combined move by Surajit Sengupta, Krishnendu Roy and Amitava Mukherjee who actually placed the ball into the goal. In fact, the three along with Krishanu Dey played with good understanding throughout the match and had little difficulty to tear apart the Salkia defence, which, of course, was too weak to contain the marauding Bagan front-liners.

As a matter of fact, the Salkia defenders could never settle down to play according to a definite strategy. After the initial forays, they went on the defensive allowing Mohun Bagan to continue to play an easy game for the most part of the match. Naturally, the Bagan players grew somewhat complacent after the fourth goal was scored and thus paved the way for Salkia to reduce the margin through Sakti Mitra who came into the team as a substitute.

To sum up, Mohun Bagan seemed to have no problem either in the defence or offence. Unlike their other two chief rivals who are not finding things very easy and having some anxious moments in almost every league match.

**NEVERTHELESS**, the green maroons put up an inexplicably lack-lustre performance in their next match, against Kidderpore. One reason for their dismal showing might have been that they never expected Kidderpore to offer them a very stiff challenge and naturally were taken by surprise when the latter's forwards seemed bent on keeping the ball in the Mohun Bagan territory. Naturally, their defenders had a harrowing time containing

*Ulaganathan in agony after a robust tackle by a Salkia Friends defender*





## Celebrity and obscurity

**A** CELEBRITY at one place can be quite a non entity at another—one of those nameless, faceless unidentifiable teeming millions who throng the streets of the cities, clamour at the mossy markets or fight for a foothold in the moving death chambers of the Indian Railways. Those are times when stars come down to earth to rub shoulders with those people with whom life is a ceaseless struggle, even a moment of it bringing a fresh threat to their existence. Then the glamour is switched off, the charisma eclipsed by the hard realities of life. And no special treatment is forthcoming from any quarter.

A few months ago this scribe was returning to Calcutta from Jamshedpur after the Ranji Trophy semi-final between Delhi and Bihar. The skipper of the victorious Delhi team Mohinder Amarnath was coming to the city in the same train. At Howrah, no garlands awaited him, no cheers of admirers, only those red-shirted people—friends in need or cutthroats in distress, whatever you like to call them—were there to greet him. A few minutes later Mohinder was seen standing in a queue to get a cab, with a mountain of luggage stacked beside him. Quite a democratic scene, and no gumbie.

But things are not quite like that always. Democracy has its other sides too. Just a few days ago, Habib, perhaps the most beloved footballer of Calcutta was coming to the city from Vijayawada. To get a second class ticket, he had to spend 10 rupees extra. Now this was a special treatment, but nobody looks forward to it.

But that was not all. Not a single man could

## Maidan musings



recognize Habib when he was moving about in the crowded Vijayawada station on the lookout for a ticket, with no sign of help from anywhere. But as the train entered the Kharagpur station, Habib became Habib once again, with the vendors, passengers—whoever present there pushing each other in front of his compartment to get a glimpse of this veteran of Calcutta soccer.

### Superstitions and soccer

**D**OES too much superstitiousness indicate lack of self-confidence? A debatable question, no doubt, but the fact is that few people on earth can claim to be free of superstitions, not to speak of professional people whose successes and failures are often caused by seemingly inexplicable reasons. Film stars, singers, businessmen, lawyers, never forget to perform certain rites and rituals before starting their day's work. It's a must which they cannot afford to do without—a sort of confidence-booster. And the marauders in the

maidan also are not quite averse to such things. Goalies touching or kissing or even worshipping the goalposts is not a rare sight. Various superstitions surrounding dresses, boots and even grounds are not quite unheard of things. And what is most peculiar about these superstitions is that they are quite infectious and are also often imposed by seniors on their subordinates. The other day, before the start of a league match in which one of the three chiefs of Calcutta was to take on a junior team, one player of the club entered the ground without touching the soil of the ground—by mistake or otherwise. As soon as it was noticed by one of the club officials, the player was asked to come back. By then he had reached almost the far side of the ground so he had to walk all the way back and re-enter the field after performing that strange ritual.

Coincidentally, that day the team put up a dismal performance and nearly conceded a point to their inferior rivals.

This scribe wishes he could know whether the player was rebuked by the club officials after the match. Ludicrous, isn't it?

### Over to Madrid

**T**HE show is on once again—the greatest fiesta of soccer on earth—the World Cup. And the fever has broken out all over the world, for soccer is a global game, it knows no frontiers, nor any race or tribe. Wherever inhabit those crazy creatures called soccer fans, excitement is on the rise and Calcutta is no exception. For the next few days the giants in action thousands of miles away in different stadia of Spain will be housed in this city.

The Maidan will be teeming over night with experts sharing and disputing each other's expertise and weaving fantasies around the stars every now and then. To top it all the media will gradually appear on the scene to take things to a climax.

So far, the focal point of interest, however, has been the fabulous antics of some of the current World Cuppers. In this respect, the man who has captured everybody's imagination is Diego Maradona, the wonderboy of Argentina the side that will be defending its title in the competition.

But the strange thing is that the players themselves are not be as interested in all this as their admirers. Among them, discussions still do not transcend the barriers of local and national football, not to speak of the premier competition of professional soccer. Of course, that is not to say that none of them are interested or for that matter all of them are totally disinterested in such things. The World Cup is too glamorous a thing to shut one's mind on. But surely, the eagerness is lacking.

wave after wave of powerful raids on their citadel. The pressure continued to increase with every passing minute and at one stage it seemed that Mohun Bagan would not be able to stave off a debacle.

Mohun Bagan's problems stemmed mainly from the failure of the medios who lacked coordination, speed and left vast areas unpoliced for the Kidderpore frontliners to make easy inroads into their goal-mouth.

This, however, was the story of the first 20 minutes of the game. Thereafter, Mohun Bagan sought to ride out of the difficult situation and started organising themselves quickly. The result was a few good moves inside the Kidderpore danger zone. But the opportunities created did not prove useful, partly due to poor finish on the part of the Bagan strikers, and largely to a superb game played by the Kidderpore custodian, Apurba Majumdar who brilliantly fisted out a powerful Dennis Williamson shot. Eventually, Mohun Bagan got their only goal in the 20th minute through Krishanu Dey and managed to win this hard-fought battle.

**MOHAMMEDAN S C** The black-and-whites maintained their winning spree with a thumping 4 nil victory over a disjointed Port Trust. However, the home team's display on the day left little room for complacency as the goals—two in each half—were scored through stray assaults, although they had the edge. The frontliners lacked cohesion and added to it was Majid's subdued performance. "Majid was off-colour today as he has not yet fully recovered from the injury sustained at Purna during the Sanjay Gandhi

Debasis Ray (not in picture) shoots past diving Port custodian Tanumoy Bose in Mohammedan S C's 4-0 triumph.



Debasis Ray heads in off a flag kick against Howrah Union. The tie ended in a one-all draw.

Gold Cup. But I hope he will soon be fit", said Naveem, the Mohammedan coach.

The home side began with a bang by netting twice within eight minutes of play. This was really a setback for Port Trust who gave a good account of themselves last season. The Port medios were mainly to blame for this debacle. They left wide gaps for the rival strikers to attack their citadel. Mohammedan's first goal could have been averted had the wingback and stopper Alok Saha and Alok Biswas not lacked in understanding allowing an un-

marked Debasis Ray to place the ball past Tanumoy Bose off a Debasis Mishra throughpass. Incidentally, Mohammedan's medio Mishra has been playing consistently and it was his brilliant high volley that found the net following a flag kick. "My midfield players failed utterly whereas the opponent medios performed really well. Also, the central line seemed to be off key. Surprising!" said the Port coach Achyut Banerjee.

Khabazi was the best among the three Iranians, though Jamshed sent a neat header to score the team's third goal, which came after 40 minutes off a Pem Dorji free kick lob. "My defenders also failed. Jamshed was unmarked," stated the Port coach Dorji who was overlapping frequently and that caused the Portmen constant worry. Perhaps Port would have done well had they replaced the medios, instead of the forwards. Mani replaced Shankar Adhikari and Nasir Ahmed guarded the Mohammedan citadel after goalkeeper Pratap Ghosh retired for pain in his back.

Port did make a number of raids, but the forwards tended to play individually. Even the little they could do was time and again foiled at the top of the Mohammedan box. The best chance came Port's way a minute before the fourth goal. Prasad Tarafdar paced down the left flank beating a couple of rival players and centred but Kalyan Chanda was a bit late to head it. In retaliation, the home side increased the lead through none other than the off-form Majid when the ball rebounded off the Port goalie. Said Naveem: "The medios played well today but the forwards are yet to



combine properly though they are asserting themselves well Pratap Ghosh had to be replaced as he was complaining of a neck strain while Dorji was playing safe as a wing back "

**B**EFORE the season got under way Abdus Sattar, who coached the reigning league champions last year, said that his health would not permit him to train the black-and whites for yet another season. But that the coach has still not run out of breath was proved when Howrah Union shocked the reigning champions. After an one-all-draw a modest Sattar commented "What did I do? The boys played well." In fact, this shock for Mohammedan S C was imminent. But it, perhaps, came too soon—in their seventh encounter.

When East Bengal conceded a goal in their match against Railway F C the Mohammedan camp must have realised that their turn was also coming. They had their reasons: the forwards lacked combination and sharpness and the inconsistent support from the midfield and the defenders indicated problems ahead. And all expectations surrounding the Iranian trio the team now seem to have been behind, though Khabazi is making some efforts. Majid seemed to have lost his touch. This was quite noticeable during this match. The only good thing he did on the day was a fine swerving flag-kick which



Referee Santh Gupta shows the yellow card to Mohammedan S C's Shankar Adhikari during their 1-1 drawn match with Howrah Union.

the rival custodian Hyder Ali Mondal failed to collect and Debasis Ray heading the ball into the net. In fact, Majid should have been withdrawn much earlier. One doubts whether Majid will be completely fit for the rest of the season.

This draw should be looked upon as an indication of what the future might have in store for them. The

home team should have performed better on heavy ground conditions like their opponents.

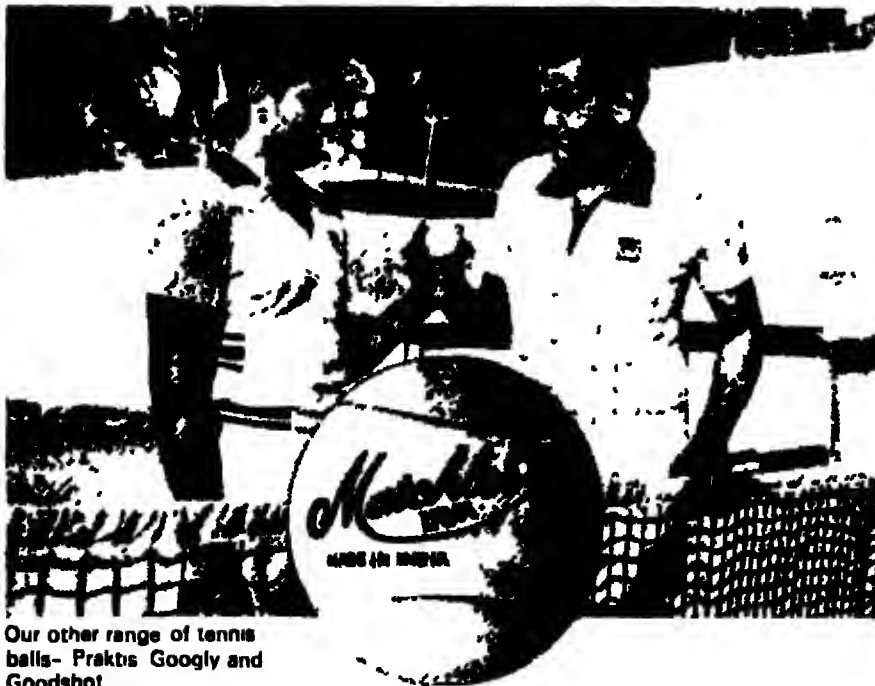
But nothing went right for them. They played aimlessly and made a series of mistakes. Howrah restored parity after 18 minutes through striker Ashok Kumar. The defence—mainly skipper Moidul Islam and Pem Dorji was responsible for this lapse. Goalkeeper Pratap Ghosh had no option but to leave the citadel. Retaliation was the only answer after the breather, but Mohammedan S C continued to fail miserably and it was the opponents who made a couple of moves that might have spelt dangers for Mohammedan S C.

Anyway, Howrah's best chance came in the 24th minute when Shibaji Ray, after receiving the ball from Ashok Kumar, had Pratap Ghosh at his mercy. But Ray shot straight into Pratap.

The match tended to be rough. But referee Santi Gupta had complete control over the situation. Three players were shown the yellow card. When missiles were being thrown on to the ground after the equaliser the referee sought the police's help which came promptly, followed by a mild lathicharge. A club official stated that it was sheer luck that saved them. Coach Naveem said "It was really unfortunate for us." The debacle is just a forewarning. Take heed.

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## ASIAN TABLE TENNIS

# Top spin blunted

V. Chandrasekhar, the Indian men's team captain, explains the factors which led to his team finishing a poor seventh at Jakarta, to PARTAB RAMCHAND

THE Indian men's team performed brilliantly at the 1980 Calcutta Asian Table Tennis Championships to finish fourth, a position they had never before achieved. They did well against Japan before losing 2-5 and then against North Korea, were ahead miraculously 4-2 before losing 4-5. Only against the formidable Chinese, who ultimately swept all the titles, did they suffer a bad (0-5) defeat. But with notable victories over Indonesia and Australia, the team did the country proud by finishing as high as they did.

Against this background, the fact that India finished as low as seventh—a fall of three places—in this year's Asian championship held at Jakarta last month should cause concern. India lost to both Australia (2-5) and Indonesia (0-5) this time. The team also suffered a 3-5 defeat at the hands of Hong Kong. Even in the individual events, the players did themselves little credit particularly after their promising showing in this year's Commonwealth championship at Bombay. Manmeet Singh's and Indu Puri's entry into the quarter-finals were the only crumbs of comfort.

*Sportsworld* talked with Venugopal Chandrasekhar about the team's performance shortly after his return from Jakarta. The 25-year-old Indian captain, who has always been candid, did not mince words. "We have suffered defeats before," he said. "But for the first time there was a sense of disappointment and frustration at the setbacks. Because, it was not so much the skill of the players that bothered us, but too much hinged on the surface of the bat."

Chandrasekhar went on to elaborate this point. "You see, 90 per cent of the players have switched to the new anti-top spin variety of rackets. This was in use even before but now there is a new twist to the technique. With the use of this racket, one does not know till the last moment which way the ball will spin, whether it will skid off the table, or whether it will just stop short. It is near impossible to judge the pace for the colouring on both sides of the bat are the same. I feel that there should be some

regulation in that at least the colouring of the rubber on both sides should be different. That would be fair."

Actually, the playing surface of the racket caused some controversy even during last year's World Championship at Novi Sad. It came in for close scrutiny by the International Table Tennis Federation but even though a great deal of fuss was created, nothing was done to ban or curtail its use. This was because, according to Chandrasekhar, "China has a strong hold on the ITTF affairs." Predictably China—which has been sweeping all before them in recent international tournaments—would not like its "secret weapon" to be controlled. The super anti-top spin surface was developed by the Japanese but the Chinese have apparently improved upon it.



Sriram (left), Chandrasekhar and Manjit Dua

Chandrasekhar said that because of all this "we were caught off guard" and were no match for our rivals. When asked why the Indian players had not switched over to such rackets, Chandrasekhar immediately took out his bat and showed it to me. He had relaid the entire surface with super anti-top spin rubber and said that he had commenced practice with it. "At least now I can get used to the surface and other players while playing with me, can also have valuable practice." But he felt that the new

rubber might not suit some of our players. "Manjit's style, for example, is not suited to anti-top spin surfaces," he said.

Another factor that probably led to the Indian team's poor show was the lack of a defensive player. "At Calcutta, we had Arun Kumar and Sudhir Phadke. Now the former has left the country and the latter is past his best. If one is a defensive player, one can combat the dangers of super anti-top spin more effectively. With Jagannath also out of the game, we have practically no defensive players," he bemoaned. "More than 50 per cent of the world's players had switched to anti-top spin rubber, over 30 per cent were now defensive players in an effort to challenge this threat and not more than 20 per cent were the normally attacking players," Chandra said.

It is obvious from Chandrasekhar's remarks that we remain totally in the dark regarding the latest techniques of the game. While we continue to use outmoded methods of coaching other nations are developing latest techniques, devastating in effect, and more often than not, catch their rivals by surprise. Something should be done to see that we are not behind in adapting these techniques.

Chandrasekhar, has always been practical in his outlook. Thus he was guarded about the future. When asked about the prospects in the Asian Games at New Delhi, he said, "We should do well, but it will be difficult to finish above the fifth position. Since besides China and Japan, Korea is fielding two teams I say this in spite of the fact that we are most likely to go to North Korea for a short coaching stint in this month. Then we will have a two-month camp at Patiala. But with all this, the lack of a good third player is always to be felt. Sujay Ghorpade will have to be watched after his visit to China. The only other young hopefuls are Rajat Kathuria and Kamlesh Mehta. The lack of a good third player always puts more pressure on the other two and Manmeet Singh and myself often play under tremendous pressure."

Asked about young Chandramouli, who was making his first trip abroad, Chandrasekhar said that he could not pass full judgement on the Tamil Nadu star. "He either played against someone who was very weak or someone who was very strong and that was rather unfortunate for one making his debut."

The Indian captain had words of praise for the women's squad which finished one position ahead compared to Calcutta—fifth instead of sixth. He also said that he did not observe any drastic changes in the approach and techniques of the top teams. "The accent is still on speed, a good serve and physical fitness," he concluded.

## Always after the ball



Fielding is as important, if not more, as batting and bowling. It is the bowler fielder combination that eventually matters and advantageous results are achieved. It is a great sight to watch a fielder make an acrobatic dive or display uncanny anticipation to take a spectacular catch which may play a decisive role in the outcome of a match. Similarly, fielders display their agility in preventing a boundary or restricting it to a mere single. It is said—and rightly so—that every run saved is a run made.

The laws concerning fielding have undergone various changes. About 100 years ago, the law specified that a 'hat' was a part of the 'person' of a fielder. This led to some controversies in 1884. In the Middlesex v Notts match at Trent Bridge, I. D. Walker's hat dropped as he ran up to deliver the ball. Scotton drove the ball, and it was obstructed by the hat. The umpire granted a penalty of five runs to

the batsman and the batting side. This was considered a wrong decision as Walker's action could not be regarded as 'deliberate' or 'wilful'. Again, in the Sussex v Gloucestershire match at Cheltenham in 1932, Melville took a single off Parker when T. W. Goddard stopped the ball with his cap at long-off. The umpire awarded four more runs to Melville as the law then said that 'five runs should be added to the score' in such a situation.

In May 1936, the

law was amended, which read "The fieldsmen may stop the ball with any part of his person, but if he wilfully stops it otherwise, five runs shall be added to the score, if no run has been made, five shall be scored. The penalty shall be added to the score of the striker, if the ball has been struck, otherwise to the score of bats, leg-byes, no balls or wides, as the case may be."

In the event of a fielder deliberately kicking the ball to the boundary to prevent a particular batsman from retaining the strike, four runs are added to the runs already made.

Writing on strange cases of fielding, Mr Gerald Brodribb says, "Long throwing depends upon climate and there have been bitterly cold days in England when every fielder must have wished he had one of those old-fashioned hand warming gadgets. It is on record that in 1892 when the MCC met Oxford University, the weather was so cold that the fielders wore gloves, and

there was a match at Scarborough in 1866 in which everyone wore an overcoat. This was not the only time when the overcoats have been worn. Some players in the Notts side wore them when fielding, while Hampshire batted for one minute on the third day of a match at Southampton in 1930."

Here are some problems

Q. An umpire is taken ill or injured during the match. Can a substitute umpire be appointed?

A. There is no option

but to appoint a substitute umpire.

Q. One of the 11 players does not participate in the first innings from the start of the match. Can he be allowed to bat or bowl in the second innings?

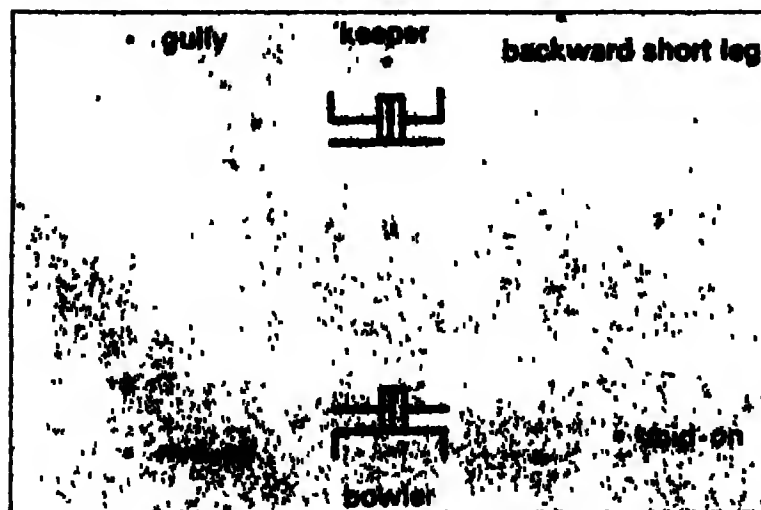
A. There is nothing in the laws that forbids him from taking part in the second innings. But the opposing captain is well within his rights not to allow a substitute for the player in the first innings.

Q. When the second run is nearing completion, an over-throw results in a boundary. How many runs will be added to the score?

A. The laws say that the run in progress counts, provided the batsmen have crossed at the time of the throw. In view of this, six runs will be added to the score.

Q. The ball strikes an object within the playing area. Can the batsman be caught or run out?

A. It depends. If the teams have declared the thing as 'bound ary', then, and then alone, the batsman cannot be out.

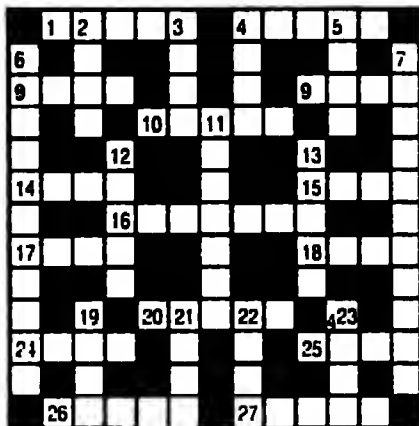




# Crossword

IMUDAR

153



## ACROSS

- 1 Tom of Holland who is a tennis player (5)
- 2 What Boycott has been nicknamed (5)
- 3 Revolutionary cricketing body from Delhi led by an M.P. (1 1 1 1)
- 4 Near tennis player has a masculine riding (4)
- 5 You must have a good this to win a sprint event (5)
- 6 Oriental direction for an Essex spin bowler who is also a comedian (4)
- 7 Matches are sometimes Home and sometimes this (4)
- 8 Holding was compelled to break his contract with this Lancashire Club this season (7)
- 9 This Chand is a long distance runner (4)
- 10 Rickard of the tennis world (4)
- 11 Former West Indian pace bowler and also hard-hitting batsman begins with a youngster (5)
- 12 Chess man returns (4)
- 13 The last cricketer to hit a triple century in Tests (1)
- 14 Swimming term (5)
- 15 The Bridge where Hadice and Rice hold sway (5)

## DOWN

- 2 You often get this labelled as 'Free in soccer' (4)
- 3 Odd name for a former England cricketer (4)
- 4 A grounded shot that hits the fence fetches this (4)
- 5 Flowery name for Somerset's captain (4)
- 6 Former Malaysian badminton player, who won the All-England four times (5 6)
- 7 British boxing hero of the early half of the Sixties (5 6)
- 11 Toxophily (7)
- 12 A pitch as it is crudely referred to as (5)
- 13 Knight's equipment or West Indian spinner's first name? (5)

- 19 Two zeroes in one game of cricket is this (4)
- 21 Surrey's homeground (4)
- 22 The young of a horse and a young cricket side are the same (4)
- 23 Promising Tasmanian batsman (4)

Excellent 28-25 Good 24-21, Fair 20-17

## Quiz

Isupit Glos

### QUESTIONS

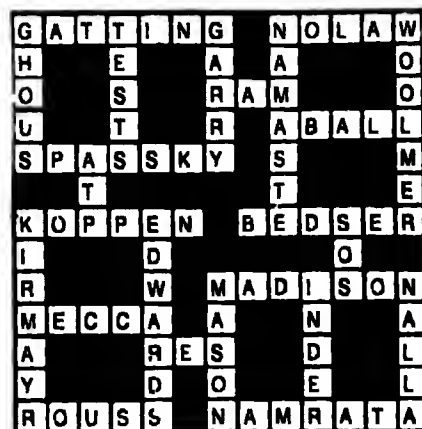
What do the following expressions mean?  
(The name of the appropriate sport is given within brackets)

- 1 Yamashita (Gymnastics)
- 2 Dogleg (Golf)
- 3 Swallow Swan dive (Diving)
- 4 Cowboy (Cycling)
- 5 Buttonhook (Basketball)
- 6 O'Brien Technique (Athletics Shot put)
- 7 Cornermen (Boxing)
- 8 One-two (Soccer)
- 9 Gardening (Cricket)
- 10 Dump (Volleyball)

### ANSWERS

- 1 The block with his fingertips played usually the ball over a smash which involved holes that may have appeared with his bat to flatten bumps and When a batsman pulls the wicket the first
- 2 player instantly returns the ball to two players in which the second An exchange of passes between Boxer's assistants in corner the shot
- 3 glides across the circle to deliver his back to the throwing area and ing in which the thrower starts with The orthodox method of shot put-bles back on himself
- 4 Change of direction as player drives rules of etiquette
- 5 A rider who breaks the unwritten entry
- 6 A forward dive where arms are stretched wide until just before

## SOLUTION 152



useb pue eel usewjeq  
Hole with sharp point to left or right  
usually saved  
as paincaxe si ekek a ekek 'as  
Vauli named after pema

## Question box

Prabir Guha, Chabua

Q What is the highest career aggregate in Ranji Trophy? Who made it?

A Vijay Hazare of Maharashtra, Central India, Maharashtra and Baroda, who between 1934-35 and 1960-61 scored the highest aggregate of 6312 runs at an average of 68.60 in 71 Ranji Trophy matches

Jagdish Prasad Agarwal, Burnpur

Q Which batsman has scored the fastest century for India in Tests?

A D N Sardesai recorded the fastest century for India, when he reached his century in 127 minutes in the fourth Test against New Zealand at Delhi in 1964-65

Joy Bosa, Patna

Q Did Sandeep Patil bowl in the Jubilee Test in Bombay in 1980?

A Yes, he bowled three overs and conceded eight runs in the second innings

C R Sathya Raghava, Tumkur

Q Please give the scores of each English batsman during their highest total of 903 for seven wickets declared against Australia at The Oval in 1938

A Ian Hutton 364, Bill Edrich 12, Maurice Leyland 187, Walter Hammond 59, Eddie Paynter 0, Denis Compton 1, Joe Hardstaff, Jr 169 not out, Arthur Wood 53, Hedley Verity 8 not out, Kan Farnes and William Bowes did not bat Extras were 50 comprising 22 byes 19 leg-byes 8 no-balls and 1 wide

Blaskar Mukharjya, Patna

Q Who is the bowler who has captured the maximum number of wickets in Tests?

A Dennis Lillee of Australia, who has captured 328 wickets in 63 Tests

V Balachandran, Calcutta

Q What were the scores of Beven Congdon of New Zealand in the series against India in 1964-65?

A Beven Congdon of New Zealand had made 9 and 0 at Calcutta, 3 and 14 at Bombay and 48 and 7 at Delhi in the season of 1964-65 in India

Q. Who was the first Test batsman to score a triple century?

A Andrew Sandham of England who hit 325 in the fourth Test against the West Indies at Kingston in 1929-30 It was his farewell appearance in Tests

Ashish Kumar Chowdhury, Ranchi

Q What is the Test bowling record of Iqbal Qasim of Pakistan and Bruce Yardley of Australia?

A Before the Tests against Sri Lanka, Iqbal Qasim of Pakistan had captured 89 wickets for 2744 runs in 29 Tests, thence taking over 5 wickets in an innings and twice over 10 wickets in a match Bruce Yardley of Australia has bagged 82 wickets for 2471 in 22 Tests four times crossing 5 wickets in an innings

**A** Intikhab Alam of Pakistan who reg-

**A Jaisimha played in 71 innings in 39 Tests with 4 unbeaten knocks and compiled 2,056 runs at 30.68 with the help of 3 centuries, 12 fifties and 9**

**A Don Bradman's highest score in first class cricket is 452 made for New South Wales against Queensland at Sydney in 1929-30 in the Sheffield Shield Tournament**

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c3p3/2c3p1/R6ZdN1/2cP1pp/1b3r2 - mate in  
two) 1 BxKP (threat 2 K3 - R4) (a) 1 RxK2,  
2 R - B6, (b) 1 P - B5-Q, 2 B - Q1, (c)  
1 Q - K5, 2 R - R3 (d) 1 Q - Q5, 2 R - Q5**



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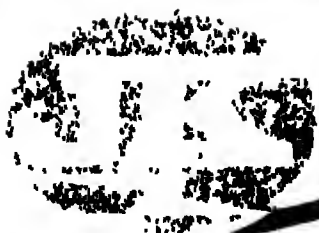
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## WORLD CUP '82: Gathering of the storm





**Legend in Wool is also Co**

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VOLUME IV ISSUE 38 AN ANANDA KALAM PUBLICATION



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Five-time champion BJORN BORG in an exclusive article, points out that the All England Club must show a willingness to come to terms with the problems of the players



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One striking feature of the 1982 World Cup has been the promise the so called weaker footballing nations have shown to become a force to reckon with in the near future. ARIJIT SEN reports from Spain

**32** RAIN AND PATIL  
SAVE INDIA  
Sandeep Patil made a comeback to Tests with a powerful century and provided a refreshing angle to a match marred by rain. The draw has ensured that the series cannot be won. MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI reports



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Cover transparency of Bjorn Borg by AP and of Socrates (Brazil) in a headmg duel with a Soviet defender by Colorsport

Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arun Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David M. Mathon  
Editorial Staff: Subhash Sanjay, Kapil D. B.  
Correspondents: Bombay: Han Sh. Maheshwari, Madras: Ashok K.  
Staff Photographer: Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Art Director: B. G. G. G.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Shuffles needed

THIS writer has been following Indian and world cricket ever since Jack Ryder's Australian team came to India in 1935-36. I know that India cannot always win a Test match but the only regret is that it gets defeated ignominiously and not after giving a stiff challenge.

I venture to suggest that Vishwanath and Doshi should be dropped once and for all from the Indian side. We find that Kapil for India and Botham for England give their teams the necessary life by taking four or five vital wickets and scoring 40 odd runs or so. Why should not Vishwanath then, who is a more experienced player, at least stick around and score those many runs. We, the lovers of the

game, are interested in his serving the country and not in his flicks, cuts and flashes right from the word 'go'. As a slip fielder if he fails to stop the ball he is unable to chase it and stop it from crossing over the boundary line. If the mighty Board and Sunil Gavaskar want him to remain in the team they should see to it that he bats at number 10 to ensure better partners for Syed Kirmani and Madan Lal.

I. R. DOSS,  
New Delhi

### Final say

CONSIDERING India's recent effort of putting it across to England at Old Trafford and the traditional penchant for batting resoundingly always in the second innings I feel that it is no longer necessary for her to play her second innings first.

ASHOK KAMATH  
Calcutta

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**Sandeep Patil testifies:**

# **You can't match Iodex when it comes to relieving a pulled muscle.**



## **IODEX— the rub that heals.**

Sandeep Patil, one of India's most aggressive batsmen, whose punishing strokes can punch the daylights out of some of the best bowling, confesses "One of the biggest problems I have to watch out for is a pulled muscle." With his kind of batting style, that's a professional hazard. "But," says Sandeep, "I've found the answer. I just rub Iodex—and I'm back in action."

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## Bjorn Borg's viewpoint

# Every time I walk out to my court I have pangs of regret that it isn't Wimbledon

Story of Kattilo  
June 1

**I** S O only to hear about Wimbledon troubles, the bad weather, poor crowds and the huge backlogs of matches. But I sometimes wonder if they do enough to help themselves.

For me, Wimbledon will always be the greatest sporting event in the

world, and, despite my bitterness at not being allowed to play there this year, I hate to see it being criticised.

However, perhaps it is time Wimbledon broke with one major tradition, and started play earlier in the day. It is the only major tournament which starts at two pm. In the United States, Australian and French Championships, we always begin at eleven in the morning.

The story is that the All England members insist on a two pm start—barring exceptional cases when bad weather has caused a pile up of matches—because they want to enjoy their lunch.

Personally, it doesn't bother me, but I know some other players get quite angry about it. Maybe there should be a compromise, with a daily start at noon.



Head groundsman Jim Thorn displays his helplessness as rain runs Ladies' Day. Borg feels that Wimbledon authorities should pay no heed to the players who demand that hard courts be installed.



John McEnroe gathers his equipment with a frown as rain puts paid to his match against Eddie Edwards. According to Borg, a good start was of prime importance for the defending champion.

I believe the real reason why play starts so late is that Wimbledon feel the grass courts need the morning to dry out any overnight dampness. The players' retort to this is that it is time Wimbledon dug up the grass and installed hard surface courts.

That may well be the majority view among the players but it certainly is not mine.

I like grass. It took me a long time to adapt my game but I learned to play on it, so why shouldn't others?

Wimbledon grass is probably the



Vitas Gerulaitis in Borg's estimation, the dark horse of the tournament.

best in the world for tennis. The tournament could never be the same, played on any other surface. I urge them to resist all attempts to make them change. Knowing them, I have no doubt that The Championships will always be played on grass.

I have spent the week practising here on Kattilo, my summer island home, but my mind has been very much on Wimbledon. Every time I walk out to my court I have pangs of regret that it isn't Wimbledon.

I feel really depressed at not being there, although had I gone just to watch I know that the feeling would have been worse. I don't think I could have stood it.

It is flattering to hear that so many people—including John McEnroe—have said that Wimbledon is poorer without me. I think the tournament is missing the likes of Ivan Lendl and myself—and we miss Wimbledon, too.

The English phrase "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" is certainly true as far as Wimbledon and I are concerned. What all this probably proves is that we need each other, and it makes me all the more determined to be back next year.

The results so far don't alter my original prediction that Jimmy Connors will win the men's title and Martina Navratilova the women's. John McEnroe is clearly worried about his ankle injury, and I know how he must be feeling.

When I won one of my five titles I was suffering from a stomach injury. John is a good enough player to overcome all but the very best of opposition when less than one hundred per cent fit.

The injury probably bothers him more on grass, so with the damp weather this might be a problem if it does not heal soon. It is so important that he has a good start and gets his confidence, for he can be such a nervous player.

My personal view is that the biggest threat to Connors will come not from McEnroe but my good friend Vitas Gerulaitis. The American is really the dark horse of the tournament, seeded third and in Jimmy's half of the draw.

Although I beat Vitas 7-6, 7-5, 7-6 last year it was not as one-sided as the straight sets results suggest. All the sets could have gone either way.

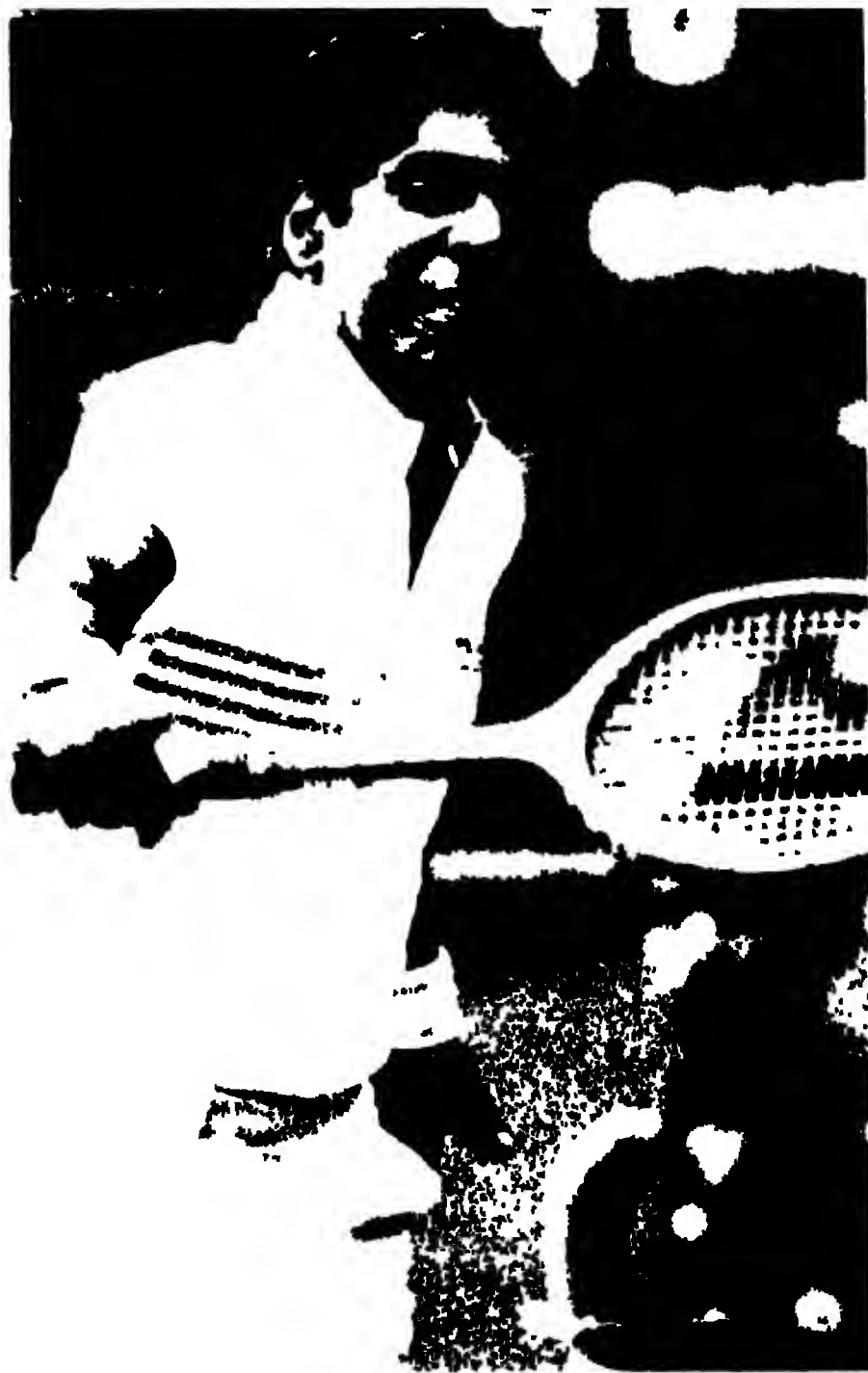
Vitas is an extremely difficult man to play on grass, which suits his improved service. He likes to come in to the net and has such tremendous aggression. Maybe, this will be his year.

What did shock me was the defeat of last year's finalist Hana Mandlikova in the women's singles. I know she has had a few problems with her form but I expected her to reach the semi-finals.

I am sure we will be hearing a lot in the future about the American girl who beat her, Candy Reynolds.

# Wimbledon's adopted son fails yet again

ASHIS RAY reports on the progress of Vijay Amritraj, who has built up, over the years, a close affinity with the Wimbledon fans. After a testing five set battle with Jeff Borowiak, he teetered on the brink with big-serving Roscoe Tanner before succumbing in five sets



**F**OUR times in the past nine years has Vijay Amritraj been at the losing end of classical or near classical five-setters. In 1973 he went down to Jan Kodeš, and more recently to Bjorn Borg, Jose Luis Clerc and Jimmy Connors. In fact, his quarter-final clash with the last mentioned 12 months ago was one of the matches that set the 1981 tournament alight.

This year, he had toiled through the qualifying rounds—the most conspicuous player to do so—and was pitted against the enterprising American Jeff Borowiak, who, though 33 is still a tough nut to crack, even in an extended encounter.

The tie, in fact, was allotted to court number four—one of the outside arenas—on the opening day, but when ultimately contested, on the first Thursday, it was moved up to the more prestigious court number one.

Somehow, and one must give them credit for this, the authorities at the All England can smell a thriller, and more often than not thrilling exhibitions seem to take place in a more central setting by virtue of which not only do more spectators get a 'live' view of proceedings, but television gets the opportunity to revel in it too.

Most people, of course, should not, and perhaps, did not sense anything special, as Amritraj was in pictorial good form and was more or less expected to get past Borowiak with a reasonable amount of comfort. But the American had different ideas, and it proved to be the first of the top class matches at this year's Wimbledon.

Amritraj is known to be of fickle temperament and to a certain extent an exercise like waiting for four days was likely to upset his concentration. Whatever the circumstances, Borowiak exceeded expectations and Amritraj, to start with, performed poorly in the crucial points to lose the first two sets 6-7, 4-6.

It was not that the Indian was performing atrociously. The silky smoothness was quite omnipotent, but what was absent was precision—that extra bit in timing if you like. And this had resulted in a situation exactly the reverse of the quarter final last year, when he led Connors two sets to love. The question was, however, could the conclusion be as sweet for the man trailing so badly?

One accolade Amritraj has not received in his career is that of 'a fighter' and all seemed lost, and what a waste it would have been in what is, perhaps, the most vital year for the Indian at the Wimbledon.

Only a few days ago Amritraj had argued in *Sportsworld* that people are unfair to him by not remembering the matches in which he has come from behind to win, citing his victory over Brian Teacher last year.

as one such example. But frankly, it would be hard to find an instance where the Indian has triumphed in a major tournament.

This, however, he put right, for he grabbed the next three sets against Borowiak 6-3, 6-4 and 6-3. He had taken a bit of time to fall into the groove, but once he did, he revealed a new dimension in his game—a feature not visible even three and a half months ago when I saw him last in California in the Davis Cup.

I refer, of course, to his baseline game, and especially his backhand. Previously, this aspect of his repertoire possessed the customary flashing look about it, but it lacked consistency and control, and perhaps, variety, as well.

On this day at Wimbledon, however, he showed a new ability to change the direction of his shots, with a last second turn of the wrists, and with impunity. And he did it several times when on the gallop. There was still that fierce flat forehand, but at the same time there was more evidence of top spin and back spin as well.

Yes, the snake charmer's magic appeared at Wimbledon in full bloom, and poor Borowiak did not know what struck him. The American did, of course, break back after surrendering his serve in the fifth set, but Amritraj went ahead again, and again to run out a sensational winner.

More important in these days of gross tantrums, it was a pleasure to watch two sportsmen at work, each applauded the other's incisiveness, one could not help but feel that this was the true manifestation of the term 'Gentlemen's Singles'.

**I**t was perhaps, impossible for a man to win two matches in a row from being two sets to love down. And had it occurred, it would have gone down as a Wimbledon record in over 100 years.

But it was not to be, and Vijay Amritraj, the star of India, went down in five sets to fourteenth seeded Roscoe Tanner of the United States after a titanic tussle.

Just five days previously, Amritraj had lost the first two sets to the American Jett Borowiak, but taken the match in five. Then, the Indian had a much easier time getting past Pascal Portes of France, and the stage was set for the big clash between him and Tanner for a place in the last sixteen of the tournament.

The All England Club authorities, anticipating a thrilling encounter, allocated the match to one of the "show" courts at Wimbledon, and a classic it turned out to be.

Amritraj, again, started slowly against the cannonball serves of the American, who tallied nineteen aces in the encounter. Though it basically boiled down to who would lose his service first, the Indian was the one to serve poorly just once in each of the sets to surrender them both.



*Roscoe Tanner finally managed to end Vijay's quest*

Tanner kept up the tremendous pace in his service, but Amritraj found a way to get around the lightning deliveries. With low returns which forced the American to half volley, and thereby, commit errors, he drew level to two sets all amidst deafening applause from the stands.

Indeed, when the final set began, Amritraj looked the stronger of the two, and Tanner escaped by a hair's breadth from losing his serve in the fourth and sixth games. In fact, the American was down 15-40 in the second of these games, but rallied with the help of two mistakes on the part of his rival.

The second of these was a forehand put into the net, a shot that the tiring Amritraj should have anticipated better, and therefore been in position to execute with comfort.

Anyhow, the Indian champion relinquished his serve in the following game, mainly through unforced errors, and that was virtually the end of the match. The

slight let-up witnessed in Tanner's service disappeared immediately, and Amritraj was left wondering how fortune can be so cruel. He had missed the bus yet again.

Admittedly, Tanner this year is in excellent form. And once his service clicks on glass, it is difficult for most players to heat him. Indeed, those who watched him in the Wimbledon final against Bjorn Borg in 1979 know only too well how tiresome this can be. Versus Amritraj he served as well as he did three years ago, which is some indication of the uphill task that confronted the Indian.

But Tanner, other than his scorching service, is a pretty ordinary player, and Amritraj in current form, despite being unseeded, was expected to trouble the American. But the harsh reality of it all is he did not triumph, and at the age of 29 he must have, at last, lost hopes of ever winning Wimbledon.

What a pity, for when he was young he certainly had as much potential as Borg and Connors.

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Swedish sensation Mats Wilander watches the tennis along with friend Annette Olsen



US contender Zina Garrison



Veteran Billie Jean King displays a plate commemorating her hundredth appearance in the Ladies' Singles Championship

# **WORLD CUP '82**

## **Gathering of the storm**

**The final countdown has begun. With the second phase already halfway through, the protagonists are now preparing for the climactic battles ahead. But one striking feature of the tournament so far has been the promise shown by the so-called weaker footballing nations. Cynics might have written them off, but they have proved that they might come back with a vengeance next time. ARLJIT SEN reports from Spain**

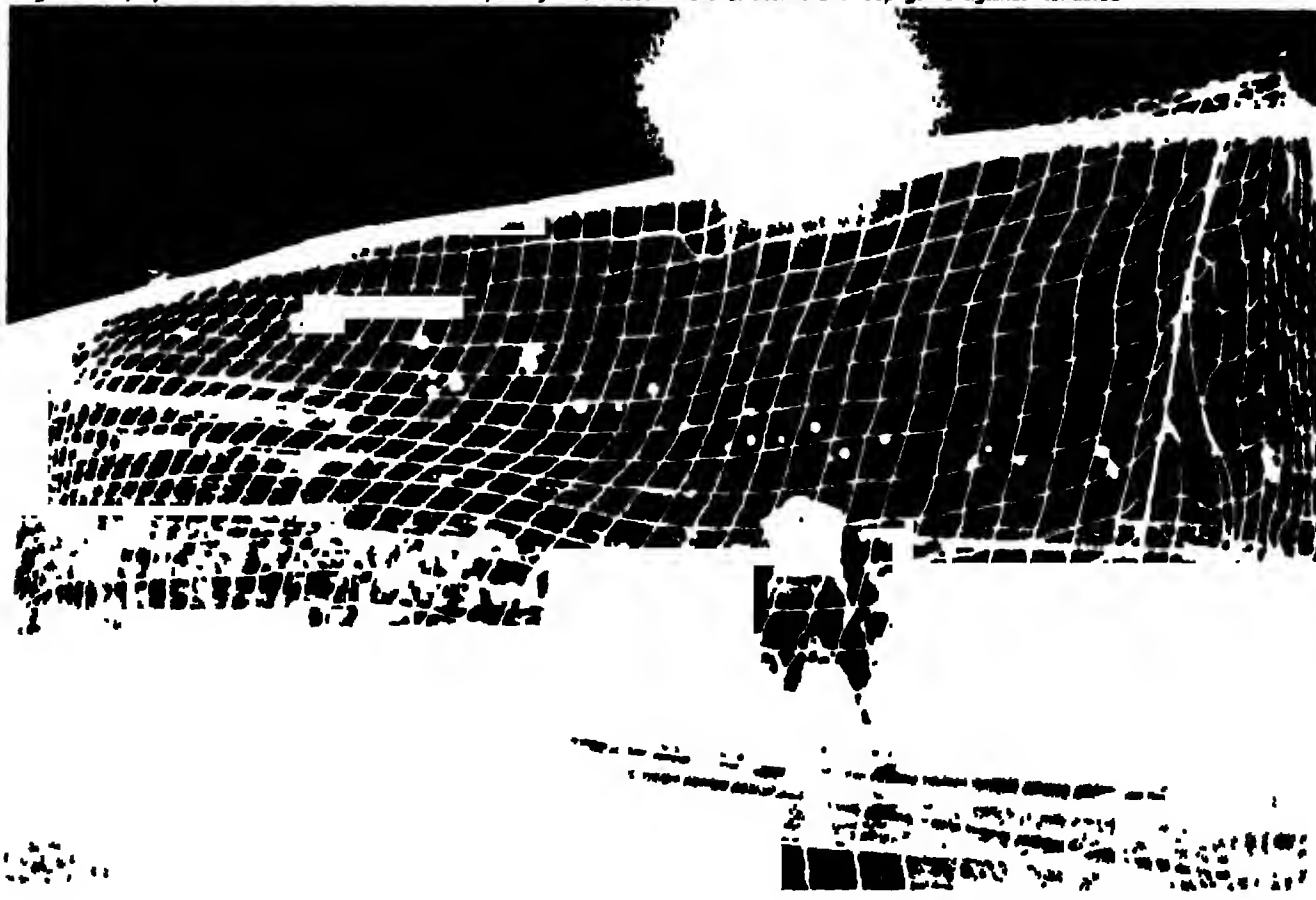
**A** WORLD CUP is always a sentimental affair. Teams from all parts of the globe—armed only with their skills and a few thousand supporters—come to do battle ostensibly for national honour but actually to prove that the people's game is fair and away the best spectator sport

the world has ever known. There are teams from affluent countries, from developing ones and from rank poor nations. The game they play is the same but the approach and styles are refreshingly different.

This time, the variety was far greater than ever, because 24 teams

participated in a competition that had started out with just 13, way back in 1930. Normally quality seekers felt cheated, much like the early colonialists, who felt they were a class apart from the natives. But, from the start of the competition, it was clear that football had travelled

*Yugoslavian player Vladimir Petrovic scores from a penalty in the last minute of their World Cup game against Honduras*







*Kempes proclaims his innocence after a tough tackle during the Argentina-Belgium tie*

# Sidelights

## WORLD CUP

### Refereeing problems

**T**HE World Cup has seen several surprises, but none more so than the abysmal standard of refereeing. Friends and foes of each team have admitted that the supervision of several matches has been biased to the point of blatant partisanship. And this has, expectedly, been most true of matches featuring Spain.

Twice, they have been "blessed" with penalties. Once, when the penalty kick did not produce a goal, a re-kick was ordered. Another time, the offence for which it was awarded, took place clearly outside the penalty area. These and other acts of omission and worse have not been ignored by the Spanish Press.

Some local papers have come out with the statement that the referees "have been our best strikers." Apart from that, several teams complained of bad supervision. Honduras, Kuwait, Northern Ireland. The list could continue.

FIFA have rejected an official complaint filed by Algeria after West Germany beat Austria. Algerian Football Association president, Hadj Benallal Sekkal, alleged that the match was fixed and demanded the disqualification of both teams.

Rene Couite, a FIFA official, said after a meeting in Madrid on June 26 "We can't change in the meeting

room a result that was reached on the field." But it was clear to every spectator on the field that something was amiss. Horst Hrubesch scored for Germany in the tenth minute. For the next eighty minutes, a farce was enacted on the field, each team refusing to alter the margin. If Germany had beaten Austria by three goals or more, the latter would have been out. And if the match had ended in a draw, Germany would not have qualified.

Either result would have suited the luckless Algeria, who would not have been at the mercy of these two European teams if they had built on the 3-0 half-time lead over Chile, instead of conceding two goals in the second session.

The match reminded one of the 6-0 travesty that Peru played out with Argentina in Buenos Aires in 1978. In the present case, however, one can't blame the referee. The April, 1981 issue of *FIFA NEWS* had an item that

was almost prophetic. A question pertaining to measures to be taken if a referee felt a team was purposely losing a match brought out the following reply: "The referee does not have the right to interrupt the match in the above case."

Talking about referees, Northern Ireland's captain, Martin O'Neill may be in for some stick from FIFA for commenting on Hector Ortiz, the referee in his team's encounter with Spain. "I don't know where FIFA dig these guys up. We understand that that was his first international in two years and that he has never taken charge of a European side." And, meanwhile, the Soviet referee of the match between France and Kuwait has been suspended by the world body.

When England played Kuwait, the interest was not on what margin of victory England would achieve, but whether or not Paul Mariner would

equal a 94-year old British record. The unlikely-sounding Tinsley Lindley scored for England in nine consecutive games between 1886 and 1888. Mariner had scored in six, equally the feat of Tommy Lawton and Jimmy Windridge.

But Mariner could only watch as Trevor Francis did the honours in the Kuwait tie. Worse, he was booked in that match, making it a very tricky road to Madrid, where another yellow card could make him sit out a very important second phase tie.

### Heads we win

**S**PONSORSHIP is not just an accepted fact, it is a dire necessity in today's soccer set-up. Even so, it was curious to see a headband in the limelight. It was worn by England's Steve Foster who made his World Cup debut against Kuwait in place of Butcher, who was rested so that he had no chance of being shown the yellow card a second time. Foster, who wears a headband even while playing as Brighton's centre-half, sported specially made headgear for the World Cup. And who took all the trouble to hide scar tissue on his forehead? Adidas, although it is a company called Admiral that provides all the gear for England. One wonders, however, what Adidas would have done if Foster were to sit the World Cup out on the bench.

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HAIR TONIC  
AND SCALP CONDITIONER



a long way. With increasing international contact and the influx of coaches from different parts of the world, the so-called weaker footballing nations made quick strides. And, despite what the cynics are saying even today, countries like Algeria, Cameroon, Kuwait and Honduras have proved that, by the time the next World Cup comes along, they will have to be treated as respected opposition by the very best.

Cameroon finished third in Group One, ahead of Peru and with the same points as Italy. The latter went through to the second round purely by scoring an extra goal. Algeria had the same points as both West Germany and Austria, but failed to qualify as Austria had a plus-two goal difference while they finished with none at all, having scored five and conceded the same number. Kuwait finished last in Group Four, but they had held Czechoslovakia to a 1-1 draw in a tale of missed chances and then lost their heads in an abominably chaotic match with France in which they went down 1-4. Honduras also finished at the bottom of Group Five, but this was only because the referee in their match against Yugoslavia was patently biased. They lost by a solitary goal and Yugoslavia ended with three points to their two.

One feels, however, that more tears were shed for Scotland than all the others named. They had qualified for the fifth time. In 1974 and '78, they finished at the bottom of



Belgium's Alex Czeremysynski in action against Hungary

the pool in the earliest round. But then, in West Germany in 1974 and then again in Argentina in 1978, they failed to make the second round only on goal difference. In 1974, it was a clash with Yugoslavia and Brazil. All three teams notched four points but Scotland were left behind because they had conceded one goal to Brazil's none. In Argentina, they scored five goals—the same as Holland—but let in six to Holland's three. Ultimately, Holland lost in the final.

This time, too, the draw went against the British Isles' most consistent side. They were placed in a group that included favourites Brazil and the Soviet Union, considered by many before the competition as the surprise package. Scotland drew with the USSR and beat New Zealand 5-2, but they had not reckoned with the fire-power of the Brazilians. And yet, they may have made it to the second round had they not scored first against Brazil. For it was this goal that brought the best out of a rather lackadaisical Brazil and they were trounced 1-4. Ultimately, the fact that the USSR had a 1-2 result against the group champions decided their fate.

But ultimately, it is goals that count and, on that score, 12 teams have made it to the second stage of the tournament. Here, in Group A, Poland will confront Belgium and the USSR, as the preliminary stage Group One winners were to face the Group Three leaders and the ran-

Maxime Bossis (No. 4) scores the fourth goal for France against Kuwait



## WORLD CUP



# MATCH OF THE WEEK

**D**ESPITE the sneers of the pundits, the stadium of Spain proved that Europe and South America could no longer consider themselves the supreme powers of world soccer. In fact, it was only inexperience and a liberal dose of scandalous refereeing that saw several newcomers to the top 24 eased out of the competition before it entered the second stage.

Apart from that, there was the spectacle of little European soccerroos taking on the giants and coming out unscathed. And the best example of this was provided by Northern Ireland, who managed to beard the Spanish lion in its own den.

The match of the week was obviously the one between the Irish no-hopers and the host nation. The contest started three days before the match, when the Spanish Press came out with stories of the Irish players' alleged penchant for booze, bistros and late-night bang-ups.

It was apparent that Paraguayan referee Ortiz was not equal to the tactics of defenders Camacho, Tendillo and Alesanco, though he did show the yellow card to midfielder-cum-striker Juanito when the latter, while falling back, pulled

McIlroy's hair even as the player was getting past him. While one couldn't blame the referee for not having eyes behind his back, he could certainly have sought the linesmen's aid before showing Northern Ireland's Hamilton the yellow card for what was purely retaliatory action against Juanito. In such an atmosphere, it was a minor miracle that a penalty was not awarded to Spain. It may be recalled that Spain drew with Honduras and won against Yugoslavia purely through the spot kick.

It was clear from the kick-off that the fancied Spaniards were still not in top gear. Their initial, tentative forays were all quite disorganised while the Irish were content to play defensively until they had taken stock of the situation.

When it became clear that Juanito, Satrustequi and Ufarte would not be able to score even if they were served up a chance on a platter, Armstrong and the youngest player in the competition and indeed in World Cup history, Norman Whiteside, tried to score what would have been Northern Ireland's sixth goal in nine international outings.

But there was to be no uninterrupted flow as body contact became the

main objective of the Spaniards.

Barely two minutes after the breather, Billy Hamilton raced towards the goalline and, eluding Tendillo, sent a low cross. Spanish goalkeeper Arconada, who had not recovered from a bad case of cold, made a fatal error in almost slapping the ball to the feet of unmarked Armstrong. By then, three defenders had raced towards the goalline, but Armstrong managed to slam the ball under the custodian and past the forest of legs to score the only goal of the match.

Spain naturally launched an all-out counter-offensive. But Saura and Ufarte could not get a clear look at goal and did not change tactics and try to score from outside the penalty area. To make matters infinitely easier for them, referee Ortiz sent Mal Donaghy, the deep defender, off for what was not a serious offence. Donaghy collided with Camacho and then, as the latter was about to take the throw, pushed him. It was the linesman who brought the matter to the referee's notice and Ortiz promptly brought out the red card.

A full 30 minutes remained and Northern

Ireland had to play with ten men. Understandably, they pushed all their men into defence, taking care not to indulge in any body play inside the penalty area. With twenty minutes to go, Whiteside was replaced by Enlison, who was obviously required to hold the defence.

Spain brought in Quaini in place of Satrustequi in the second session and then reinforced the attack further by replacing a clearly out of touch Ufarte with Galleaga barely thirteen minutes from time. And yet, veteran Pat Jennings under the bar had only one moment of uncertainty when he failed to pick up the ball in the last minutes—the result of a misunderstanding with the defenders. But he dived for it even as Saura came within a foot of equalising.

It was a doubtful struggle, against odds that one would have thought were insurmountable. But it was done and the 110-year history of Irish football was re-written, etching a chapter more glorious than the 1958 crusade, when they reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup in Sweden before losing 0-4 to France, who finished third in the competition.

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ners-up of Group Six. All matches are scheduled at the Noucamp Stadium in Barcelona. Group C matches will also be played in the same city, though at the RCD Espanol. But, of that, later.

The Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid will host the Group B ties, where West Germany are pitted against England and Spain—the Group Two and Group Four leaders joining the Group Five runners-up. The other Madrid matches will be held at the Vicente Calderon, where Austria, France and Northern Ireland clash. Here, Group Five winners, Northern Ireland have to meet the Group Two and Four runners-up.

The big disappointment came in the Group C line-up at Barcelona. It was expected at the start of the competition that Argentina could head Group Three and so move on to Group A. But they finished second behind Belgium and so found themselves clubbed with Brazil and Italy. As leaders of Group Six, Brazil came along with the Group One runners-up, Italy. So there are no prospects of a Brazil-Argentina clash in the later stages of the World Cup.

But the draw holds one psychological advantage for Brazil. Argentina have to play Italy first and if they win, they will have to wait for the Brazil-Italy tie before playing their principal rivals. The twelfth World Cup rules have scheduled that, even should there be a draw, Italy will have to play Brazil in the second group encounter.

*Continued on page 21*



Austria's Walter Schachner is horizontal in the air while Algerian Faouzi Mansouri heads the ball.

Platini of France (right) is felled by Jawwad of Kuwait (No. 5).





# PROFILES

**"O**f course you can stop him. You can stop any player. But his variations are so many, his skill so bewildering that many a time you don't know what he is going to do next. You only know what he has done. That is how Rinus Israel, the one-time captain of Feyenoord and the Dutch national team, and undoubtedly one of the best central defenders of the continent described Johan Cruyff, the wonder boy of Dutch soccer.

He took his team Ajax to one glory after another during his distinguished career as a footballer and became one of the most highly paid professionals of his time. In fact, this was a period of rejuvenation for the game in Holland which ultimately dominated in the re-emergence of the nation on the international scene. And the maestros who made it happen were Johan Neeskens, Wim Van Hanegem, Ruud Krol and Johan Cruyff.

The morning he was never showed the day the star of the morrow was born with a frail physique and a

## Unstoppable Cruyff

worse, a weak left foot. But the dreams were always there and the youngster spent hours watching the famed ballplayers of his time in practice.

This was a process of self-teaching and soon the boy found himself equipped with almost all the skills of a standard footballer. The disadvantage he had in his left foot Cruyff sought to compensate for by making the right a power house of tremendous strength. And added to it was the training he got under youth trainer Jans van der Veer who made Cruyff sprint around the playground with weights attached to his left foot. That went a long way in eliminating his innate handicap.

Thus the boy was gradually preparing himself for the real challenges that he was to meet on the professional circuit. The two things that he had mastered by then were taking powerful shots and creating clever moves which were beyond the comprehension of his opponents.

But his forte was his unbelievable speed, coupled with flawless ball

control. It always gave him an added advantage to break through an opposing defence. And young Cruyff was coming to prominence by leaps and bounds.

At 15 he joined Ajax Club, the fences of which he used to hang around copying the techniques of its players. Now better training was available and also the incentive to make rapid progress. For a passionate football fan like him it was a god send—though every bit of it earned through hard toil—to reach the highest levels of international soccer.

Not only for Cruyff, for Ajax also it marked the beginning of a prosperous period in which the club rose to great heights and won many a coveted trophy of the continent. The leading spirit in most cases became this star in the making of Dutch soccer.

After making his debut for Ajax in the 1965-66 season, Cruyff soon became a marvel of a goal getter, seeming almost unstoppable when running with the ball towards a goal, leaving defenders motionless or

flat on their faces on his way through. In fact, he went on a goal-scoring spree right from his first match for the club.

In 1966, he was capped for Holland. But there was trouble in store for him. During a match against Czechoslovakia, he lost his temper, provoked by an opposing defender and was sent off the field on charges of dangerous play. Later he was suspended for one year from international soccer, a punishment that was condemned from many quarters as unjustifiably severe for not so serious an offence.

In 1974, Holland staged a valiant comeback into the arena of top level world football—the World Cup at Munich. The Dutch simply stormed onto the scene and swept aside Uruguay, Bulgaria, Argentina, East Germany and even Brazil to reach the final. The ultimate success, however, never came their way and they had to return home empty-handed. But a few men stood out in defeat and the world will ever remember the performance the great masters put up. And Cruyff was one of them.



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# Phadwara

**POLYESTER**

**FABRICS**

*Winners all the way*



**BRAZIL vs USSR**

**Top: Junior (right) of the former about to dribble past a Soviet defender.**  
**Bottom: Brazil's Eder takes a free-kick**





# RECORDS

**Predicted right....**

**P**REDICTIONS are always inaccurate, but this was not the case with Cuban legend, soccer icon and star who played his last soccer game in 1958, Cuba's score making their World Cup debut the year following the withdrawal of Mexico and Canada. He played 100 international games, in which he outscored many of the stars who had written off the dominant Havana side. He was dropped for their play for no apparent reason or reason I paid though he was the cat for the summer and the best of the bold must we shall she will in. And it is how it

**...and wrong**

At the 1950 World Cup, Saldanha was the only voter who voted for Brazil. In 1950 it was the only version of the State of Rio de Janeiro predicted victory for Brazil. In 1950, Saldanha was the only voter who voted for Brazil. In 1950, Saldanha was the only voter who voted for Brazil.

victors of the tournament—your players who in less than a few hours will be acclaimed champions by millions of your compatriots—your who have made a name in the testosterone-hemisphere—your who are superior to every other competitor. I salute you as conquerors. One wonders what he had to say after Brazil's defeat.

### **First league play-off**

The World Cup was decided on a league basis for the first time in 1950. Brazil's dreams were shattered when they lost to Uruguay and the best team in the world's defeat. Six co-conspirators at the Maracanã Stadium, lured from duck and doves, later filtered through that so-called official fans had died while listening to radio broadcasts.

### The top-scorer

**MOROCCO BORN**  
 In 1960, he was drafted to play for the French team during the 1966 World Cup in Sweden. But even he could not wait a few years before dropping out, that he would find a life to live.



the end of a all-Team  
to Rene Bhandant  
ankle during game  
and retirement heard,  
tune the coach with  
option but to include  
strong in his place  
a vomit set in and  
that he was fine  
marksman and ended  
the tournament with a  
tally of no less than 15  
goals, which he said yet  
be surpassed.

## Successive goals

ONLY a player has scored goals in successive World Cup final Edwardo Linder Neto

Pele of Brazil carved a niche for himself in the history books when he found the net against Sweden in 1958 and later, against Czechoslovakia in 1962. Pele also scored in two World Cup finals but he performed his feats in 1958 and 1970.

## The fastest goal

The fastest goal in the history of World Cup before the 1982 Madrid tournament was scored in 1938, by Swede Otho Nilner in his side's encounter against Hungary. He netted in 15 seconds, to earn the only goal of the encounter and it was not until four decades later that someone else did a remarkable thing that the Liverpool player Bernard Lacombe took 31 seconds to score against Italy in 1978.



# CHERRY BLOSSOM

## For Dazzling White Sports Shoes!



Argentina's Daniel Passarella scores against El Salvador by a penalty kick

One guesses this group because of the showing in the first phase of the competition. It is a curious group: Argentina or Brazil will reach the final because they either won the group, will face the winners of Group A (Poland, Belgium or the USSR). The other semi-final will involve the West Germany-Luxembourg group, won by the latter of the duo, which includes Austria, France and Northern Ireland.

While Brazil and Argentina have the capability of winning the World Cup, one cannot write off West Germany. The European Cup champions have not yet touched their peak form, but it is evident that they are slowly getting into stride. If they've just England, they should certainly reach the last stage of the competition because they face Austria, which is a very controversial team and look a much better side than either France or Northern Ireland.

One cannot however dismiss England. Gone are the days when they were literally saved by a late flash from Switzerland, who helped them qualify by beating other teams after England had lost to them as well as to Norway. England have won their last nine international matches and have been improving markedly match by match. Now, even without

Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooker, they have a combination that is working well. In fact, apart from the much-vaunted Keegan, which they won by a narrow margin, they have displayed the courage and the ability to control the game, to dominate that are a 'Giant' to which.

The team does to come out of Kurt Henz, Pummungre and Erendi, the three scored wingers who can shoot with confidence, but England do have a small effort to find that can handle most opposition as well as set up an attack.

But there will surely be other areas of interest. Group A, for example, could feature a surprising match, the like of which we will see in a waterpolo encounter between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia immediately after the match. Reims was invited to be followed by the USSR. The Soviet Union is involved in another controversy, but which has not ended. And so the match between the USSR and Poland could provide fireworks, other than the kind one expects from football. And one will also have to see whether Austria deserved a place in the Second Round after what was alleged a 'fixed' match with West

Germany, which the latter won 1-0, just enough to place Austria sixth in the group, but at Algeria. Luckily for them, France have still to produce the team they are supposed to be capable of and Ireland, despite their victory over Scotland, still cannot face the unknowns of the pre-qualifying trials.

But back to a game of football, it is the non-stop flashes that ultimately count, if they are translated into goals or injuries. More domination of the match is the criterion. France discovered to their cost while losing to England. And it is here that some shocks may still be expected.

In the meantime, the little seeds displaying. Madrid, 82 seats on the Via Europa, Gran Canaria, El Estadio, Valladolid, Valencia, Zaragoza and Malaga have already done it. There will be no more, no more showing in the heat of games, keeping time with vocal acrobatics. Only Sevilla, which will hold one seat, and Valencia, where the heat of the battle will meet with a pronounced hold on the public imagination. For the rest, it will be Barcelona and, of course, Madrid, but the road to that first round of the Santiago Bernabéu will seem a long one.





**Sportsworld**

**England's Wilkins hits the target as  
France fight for control of the ball**

**WORLD CUP**

# 1

# Exide

**Still keeps going  
when the rest have stopped**



**A  
CHILDREN  
'S**

# Man of the week

**I**TALY, the only European country to have won the World Cup twice, apart from this year's continental favourites, West Germany do not have either the skill or the verve that got them the top prize over 40 years ago. Nor have they, in Spain, displayed the defensive skills that the world once learnt from them. Italy drew all their three matches in Group One, relying too heavily on defence to make an impact.

The only play-cup field to make any impression was captain Giancarlo Antognoni, who set up both goals that the team scored in the preliminary round.

The son of a farmyard from Perugia, Antognoni was born on 1 April 1953, of a family of home of artists. His uncle, Ottavio, did not know the extent of the influence. Giovanni has had, in the deep home attack, but his football ancestry has dazzled his country and Europe for over a decade now.

Like most footballers in Domenico's generation, Antognoni was one of the young clubs, picked to play when he was just 17. But finding him a little immature, they loaned him to a Fourth Division league side, Astmacrombi. It was

understood that the latter would keep him for two years, but his form gave the club other ideas. They sold him for a Fourth Division record fee of about 800,000 dollars to Fiorentina, a club he first served with some 10 years ago. Then came a 100,000 dollar move back, but then another standstill with a year and a half only. Yet still, and there was no doubt, they could do about it.

In any country, it needs a unique move to leap from Fourth Division to the first division, but the club with which Antognoni made the transition marked him out as a great exception. Had he not played a major role in Italy's defeat of Canada and the United States at the World Cup in Mexico, Rivera. He started his career there again, at Verona and had never been dropped from the club side since.

To conclude to country was a small step which he took in 1974 when he appeared for Italy's second team. It was a bitter disappointment at the 20-year-old when he was not picked for the 1974 World Cup squad, but he did not suffer a loss of reputation for that, as he found himself in a pool which included Portugal and Argentina, the two main antagonists of

from the World Cup in Germany.

A change of managers brought a change in Italy's midfield, with Antognoni the kingpin there. Fulvio Bernardini, who had been in charge of Fiorentina in the 1970s, took him into the fold. Since then, Antognoni has made over 60 appearances for his country. One of the most memorable of these was the tie against England in late 1976, which put Italy through to the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. A brilliant freekick by him had the England goalkeeper Ray Clemence beaten from the start, and it was merely momentary that Kevin Keegan deflected the ball even further from the goalmouth.

Italy began well in the competition, heading the group in which Argentina were second and then beating Austria and holding West Germany to a goalless draw in the match for third place. It was there that Brazil beat them 2-1. But the tournament was not a smooth one for the captain.

But injuries in several matches, rather in the season, and almost regularly in the World Cup, saw him in poor form, and towards the end, he had to be replaced back home. Fiorentina

was facing relegation and Antognoni faced the wrath of the club fans. He was suspended for two matches when he argued with a referee. Again, in November 1978, he was sent off the field after a row during a match with Lazio, which Italy lost 3-0. Again, in a tournament in Japan, he was sent off in a match against Tottenham Hotspur, a leading England club side. This was followed by similar treatment in a World Cup qualifying match against Belgium.

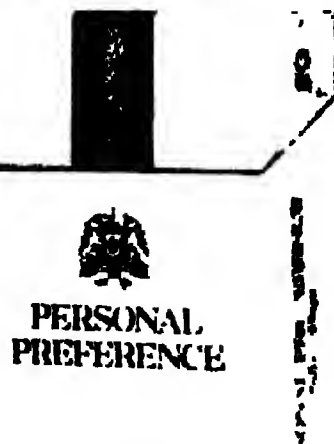
But his reputation did not leave him. Even today, soccer enthusiasts know that he is easily excitable and is prone to taking the law into his own hands. Whether it is his own team that is in trouble, or that of his team mates, or the opposition. Antognoni's prone to his temper and angry gesticulations, provocation or not.

Already a troublemaker, Antognoni has earned a yellow card in the Spain World Cup.



TATTOO MARKING  
JARETT SAMPSON

**PERSONAL  
PREFERENCE**  
*Julien Kings*



WATSON & SONS

# Man of the week

World

PERSONAL  
PREFERENCE

PAUL BREITNER  
West Germany  
AP







# PERSONAL PREFERENCE

## Mood of the Cup

*Anger in the arena. President of the Kuwaiti Football Association, Fahd Al-Ahmed, clenches his fist, standing right on the pitch, to protest against refereeing during the Kuwait-France encounter*



*An explosion of joy. Faisal Al-Dakhil of Kuwait is hugged by a team-mate after scoring against Czechoslovakia in their Group Four match.*





*The star among his fans. Brazilian soccer ace Zico surrounded by a cluster of pretty girls during a workout at the Mairina Facilities*



*A loud shout by England's Bryan Robson after his side's second goal against France at Bilbao's San Mames Stadium. England won 3-1*





NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

# INDIA LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

Concave rain and a refreshing comeback by Sandeep Patil India replied resoundingly after all seemed lost at a stage. Though the saving of this match means that the series cannot be won by the tourists MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI feels that it does not mean that the series cannot be squared at The Oval



**P**ATIL MAY BE THE only Indian who has not been out of the game since he came to the West Indies. He has been in the side since the first Test and has played in all three. He has been in the side since the first Test and has played in all three. He has been in the side since the first Test and has played in all three.

At the start of the match, India were in a bit of a bind. They had lost their first two Tests and were in a bit of a bind. They had lost their first two Tests and were in a bit of a bind. They had lost their first two Tests and were in a bit of a bind.

But the Indian side did not let this get to them. They were determined to play their best cricket. They were determined to play their best cricket. They were determined to play their best cricket.



looking well settled and comfortable against spin and seam, but Gavaskar playing with more hesitation and discomfort.

So it continued with a 20 minute break for back light with all the Indian bowlers on line and length, restricting the scoring rate, but far too rarely giving hopes of a break through. The wicket at the Stratford end was totally grassless and yet Gavaskar had preferred the less experienced Ravi Shastri till the middle of the afternoon to Doshi to try and exploit what little it had to offer and eventually when Doshi did get to bowl from this end he turned the ball sufficiently to bowl Cook as he reached forward defensively.

A little later he had Gavaskar on his early to hit the middle stump and dismissed Randall caught behind. In the meantime Madan Lal tempted Lamb into drying up at a ball wide enough to be left alone so early in his innings and forced Fowler to give a sharp change to Shastri at backward short leg.

The Indians like many others must have noticed that Gavaskar stands too straight when he has the ball to long leg and Shastri was placed there according to plan. Though Cook had batted with confidence to establish himself in the England team no other batsman had quite managed to overcome the difficulties of turning in a wicket which was by no means easy or even from 100 for no wicket. England had shipped to 101 on five batters and recent memories of the first innings at Lord's. Would the Indians escape again, we wondered. In fact they did and this was entirely due to a fine piece of reconstruction by a man known to you.

Botham had already given his attention to 12 and had begun to turn on the full power of his broad shoulders. Indeed once again he sorted to all two main bowlers. He exasperated Doshi by a skilful use of the reverse sweep, but scared Kapil Dev with utmost respect. But even Kapil Dev cannot come to the end and the new ball was due late in the evening and as soon as Nayak was introduced Botham was back in business saving his way to 50 with 10 fours. Miller out to prove that he is also a genuine all rounder, was content to stick only the poor delivery no matter how long it took to come. Botham howled with enough resolution to contain the batsmen, though one wondered how a slow left arm spinner could bowl so many no balls and indeed with a deep defensive field why England refused the many obvious singles. Gavaskar asked for the new ball with three overs remaining but could not separate the two.

At 239 for five, the match was evenly poised. The ball was as good as new and if Botham could he dismissed early, it would very possibly ensure that England's total stayed within reasonable limits. Why



Cook's innings at 86 comes to an end, bowled Doshi

Nayak was asked to share the new ball with Kapil is a secret yet to be revealed and when Nayak hit Botham's toe with a straight ball too why nobody appealed will remain a deeper mystery.

Botham in pain requested a runner and then proceeded to pay back Nayak in full measure. Whenever Botham faces Kapil or is the other way around there is a perceptible sense of anticipation amongst the spectators. The media has built up these two and Imran Khan as the most exciting all rounders in the world and in the game both parties gave ample reasons for this accolade. Initially Kapil has been playing and missing but the stumps were off the ball and Botham adjusted to the pace and bounce of the wicket. It became apparent that the Indian bowlers were going to suffer. He despatched the stumps all around the ground and received his hundred with a burst of hours and drives.

Gavaskar introduced a double run attack and in spite of a deep mid on and mid off Botham hoisted Doshi into the crowd. Doshi seemed dejected, but there is hope when Botham is in this mood. No matter how hard he hits the ball, if he is prepared to lift over the fielders on the boundary, he is bound to fail sooner than later. And he did fail as he went for another big swing, but played the ball onto his stumps off the bottom of the bat.

In game Pringle, momentarily in the midst of controversy since this Test has clashed with the Varsity match and he, the captain of Cam

bridge has preferred to represent his country. Where one's loyalties should lie is in this case an individual choice but one cannot help but feel that the captain must have played a part. Perhaps this is uncharitable and it might be the weather effects is dampened rather a discussion. A six let for nothing and with a reputation almost as large. Pringle has yet to impress. Except for one authentic drive. Perhaps a long over long ball to take him safely to lunch. Mr. Nayak at 100 is having shown much promise and a penchant for the defensive. Turning the over of a big black cloud spilled its contents and the day's play was abandoned.

ONE is not sure of the progress of the monsoon in India but it is raining there at present down to last evening and during the night there will be some rain. It may be though in Manchester etc. if bowlers were to play to go through another Test interrupted by rain.

Surprisingly the series is delayed by only one hour such as the drainage systems and the recuperative powers of this ground. Once again Doshi bowled economically and Kapil moved the ball sufficiently to beat the batsmen no way! England showed a reluctance to test the fielding with quick singles and the first hour saw the addition of a mere 33 runs to take the score to 373.

So far England had indicated no real urgency, though it was obvious to even non-Lancastrians that the weather would curtail this game. At last, Pringle never at home lost





*Sportsman*  
KAPIL DEV NIKHANI  
RAHUL GUPTA



Sandeep Patil—Man of the Match

patience and was comfortably strung off Doshi. At the other end, Miller, who has ever firmly set on a first hundred, declined to take any risk. He was dropped in the slips off Madan Lal, but carefully worked his way to 98 before playing Doshi into his toes to give Vengsarkar a sharp catch at slip point. Edmonds had already gone, giving Madan Lal more compensation for his nothing effort and at 41s for some one expected a declaration. But the England captain encouraged no doubt by a partner and at 40s, felt capable of adding some quick runs. In this he did not succeed and England were all out for 429.

On a slow wicket inclined to help spin the Indian bowlers had performed creditably and without much luck India went in to bat at a most convenient time and in light just good enough for play. The prospect of facing the new ball from fresh bowlers who know that they need only bowl a few overs, is daunting and so it proved. Willis generated pace to dispose of Shastri and Gavaskar, both to deliveries that rose close high. From the other end, Pringle replacing an injured Botham, bowled a wide, short ball to Vengsarkar, which the latter very indiscreetly edged into the slips. It was not a shot to be recommended with five minutes left for play. That left India at 35 for three and the memory of the last Test too clear for comfort.

**N**OBODY who watched this day, and there were only 4,000 at the ground, is likely to forget the Indian performance. Three hundred and forty runs in one day is rare enough, but to score them faced with the ignominy of a follow on was a unique feat.

Willis and Botham, the latter still not completely fit but more than prepared to compete, were on target, but were kept at bay by Vishwanath and Kirmani, the night-watchman.

Sensibly, India refusing to be overawed kept the initiative and against an attacking field played shots at every opportunity.

For the first time in this series the English bowlers felt the true depth of the Indian batting, but as has happened so often, the effort may have come too late. Today, Vishwanath and Kirmani laid the foundation. Kapil Dev built handsomely on it and Patil provided the final finish with an incomparable innings of controlled aggression. The most immediate task was to deny a breakthrough to the quicker bowlers, which on a wicket now devoid of any pace required a little care for a few overs, while there was still gloss on the ball.

While Vishwanath lay back to square cut in push strongly off the legs, Kirmani refused to play a minor role and contributed almost as much driving through the many empty spaces. Willis, for the first time under pressure and with not a great deal of runs to play around with, found it difficult to arrive at the



Botham turns one to leg during his century

right balance between attack and defence.

He could have shown more imagination with his bowling changes. He bowled Miller from only one end and far too long. And till very late in the day he seemed to have forgotten the existence of Pringle.

Edmonds, given exclusive use of the Warwick Road End, from which Doshi had done so much damage, bowled flat and did not manage the

same response. Miller, the off spinner, so used to one-day cricket, can not be successful in a five-day match unless he changes his attitude and decides that wicket-taking is often more important than saving runs.

Gradually the bowling was worn down as Vishwanath square cut his way to another fifty. He was not quite so successful against Botham, nor was the square cut that got him out just before lunch that necessary. It gave Taylor a simple catch and Sharma a torrid over from Botham. Sharma soon fell victim to the vagaries of the wicket, when Edmonds bowled him with a 'grubber'. Patil, in a situation crucial to India as well as his own career, showed no signs of gravity and from the first ball which he drove confidently for three, played with increasing candour. Kirmani's dismissal by one of the few balls that turned prodigiously did nothing to deter his attitude but for the next hour or so he wisely took the back seat as Kapil Dev in the middle of a purple patch moved smoothly into top gear. Whatever Botham does, Kapil can do better. Only Patil can hit the ball as hard but Kapil does it with more ease, and if England had any belated hopes of enforcing the follow on, these were soon dispelled.

Kapil Dev did as he pleased, he made the quicker bowlers appear a military medium, and the spinners less than mediocre. When he left after an exhilarating display of freely timed strokes, the stage was set for Patil to play one of the most momentous innings one has been privileged to witness.

Some say that his 174 at Adelaide was better. This, I cannot agree with. At Adelaide he had played in plum perfect conditions and he had less to lose. Here, his career was at stake, he was by no means a unanimous choice of the tour selection committee and the wicket was liable to turn and keep low on occasions. What was even more reassuring was that he kept his cool and was mature enough not to compete with Kapil Dev when the latter was in full flow. It was a shame that it was cut short and in the end terminated by the weather for most of us saw no reason why England's total could not be overtaken. The moral victory would then have been complete.

It would take pages to attempt to describe this innings. It would suffice to say that Willis had to remove himself after he had been struck for six fours in an over. And after 31 runs had been scored off nine deliveries Patil till now had had a poor tom, but class cannot remain hidden for too long. And it showed in abundance and abandon, this afternoon.

For the next Test, one hopes that India will stick to the present combination of five bowlers and whether it is Nayak or Yadav, let the coming week and the nature of the Oval wicket decide.

## SECOND TEST ★ INDIA VS ENGLAND

### ENGLAND (First innings)

G COOK bowled Doshi	66
C J TAVARE bowled Doshi	57
A J LAMB c Vishwanath b Madan Lal	9
D GOWER c Shastri b Madan Lal	9
I T BOTHAM bowled Shastri	128
D RANDALL c Kirmani b Doshi	0
G MILLER Vengsarkar b Doshi	98
D PRINGLE st Kirmani b Doshi	23
P EDMONDS c Kirmani b Madan Lal	12
R TAYLOR not out	1
R WILLIS c Gavaskar b Doshi	6
EXTRAS	16
TOTAL	425

Fall of wickets - 1 106 2 117 3 141 4 161 5 161 6 330 7 382 8 412 9 419

### BOWLING

Kapil Dev	36	-5	109	0
Madan Lal	37	-9	104	-3
Nayak	12	-1	50	-0
Doshi	41	-1	102	6
Shastri	23	8	44	-1

### INDIA (First innings)

S GAVASKAR c Tavares b Willis	0
R SHASTRI c Cook b Willis	12
D VENGSARKAR c Randall b Pringle	54
G VISHWANATH c Taylor b Edmonds	58
S KIRMANI bowled Edmonds	10
VASHPAL SHARMA bowled Edmonds	129
S PATIL not out	65
KAPIL DEV c Taylor b Miller	26
MADAN LAL b Edmonds	
SURU NAYAK not out	
EXTRAS	
TOTAL (for eight wickets)	379

Fall of wickets - 1 5 2 8 3 25 4 112 5 136 6 173 7 269 8 366

### BOWLING

Willis	17	2	91	2
Pringle	16	-1	33	-1
Edmonds	37	12	91	-3
Botham	19	4	95	-1
Miller	15	4	51	

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**T**HE England cricketers marvel, and indeed seem baffled at times, at the Indians' extraordinary appetite for parties. While the Englishman prefers to watch the "telly" (in this case principally the World Cup or Wimbledon) or have a quiet drink at the hotel, their rivals are at cocktails or dinner do's almost every evening. "Amazing isn't it?" Peter Lush of the T C C B remarks, a bit confused, and he's seen it happen in India, as well.

The social engagements in Manchester began with a reception hosted by the Greater Manchester Council—apparently the first of its kind extended to a touring side—and also included a dinner thrown by Greaves Cotton, a company with wide interests in India.

But the party of parties came from the former Indian wicketkeeper, Farooq Engineer, settled now in Lancashire. It was a huge gathering in the engineer's sprawling house in the suburbs of Manchester, and from all indications, the whole of this North of England city and his wife were there, not to mention media men and officials.

Cricketers accustomed to being constantly entertained, especially in their heyday, are not the most hospitable of people themselves, (exceptions not taken into account). So it all amounted to a wonder tale, on the part of 'Rooky' (Engineer's nickname). Neither the wine nor the pulao and tandoori ran short and that, despite at least two hundred and fifty guests turning up. And among familiar faces were Budhi Kunderan—he lives in Scotland—and Bishan Bedi (on his way back from America, where among his assignments was a speech delivered at the United Nations).

Of course, the evening ended in slight chaos with the planned garden party spoilt by torrential rain, which forced people to cram into the covered space, including the swimming pool area. But the generosity and good faith of the Engineers (including that of a charming wife and two lovely daughters)

## Tour Diary

# A party, a lecture and the century of the season

could hardly be suppressed or overlooked.

**I**HAD to prove that Adelaide was no fluke," Sandeep Patil expressed at the end of the day when he compelled the cricketing fraternity in England to think of no thing else but his explosive innings of 129 not out.

The previous night, the Indian captain, Sunil Gavaskar, brooding over his team's reply of 35 for three, had remarked "I am very disappointed because this side has failed to realise their full potential," and the following morning in a long lecture to his boys, he is supposed to have said, "I see no reason why we shouldn't play out the day," and turning to Patil, he emphasised, "I want you to just stay there and forget about playing shots."

According to Patil, this is what he had intended to do till he was hit by that Botham bouncer on the helmet, which prompted him to open out a bit in order to regain his confidence. "I was just determined to get a few runs." He stated later on, "I had let my team down very badly on this tour, and I had to make amends."

What happened when Kapil came in? "Kaps said he wanted to play his normal game, so I decided to give him the bulk of the strike. Our immediate objective was to save the follow on, and I saw no point in hitting out at both ends," said Patil.

And how does he explain that murderous assault on Willis? "I had gut the runs by this stage, we had saved the match and since I was by then sighting the ball quite well, I felt I could play my shots". The result six

fours in one over—a record in Test cricket—and only one of those deliveries could be described as loose. What this will do to Willis' confidence one will have to wait and see. What it did to Indian cricket was to smash the myth that their batsmen did not relish fast bowling.

It was an amazing innings, the likes of which are seen as rarely as a sunny day in Manchester. Perfect in defence and temperament and electrifying in its power and precision. And this from a man who claimed a top score of 34 and an average of 12.54 before this game! In fact, playing him in this Test was an absolute gamble on the part of the tour selectors.

Inevitably, the comparison will arise as to whether this or the 174 at Adelaide was the better knock. Patil goes for his Australian effort on the grounds that it was played after his head injury in Sydney. It was also against a better attack—Lillee, Pascoe and Hogg. But the discipline that he demonstrated, the complete flawless nature of the exhibition (he mistimed a few strokes at Adelaide) and taking into consideration the crisis he had walked into, my vote would go to this Old Trafford exercise.

Even after his success in Australia some of us had felt that Patil would have to adjust his technique to do well in England. He has finally done that—though it took him almost two months to accomplish it—and yes, he has proved that Adelaide was no fluke.

**F**IFTY years ago—this is being written on 28 June—marked the end of India's first Test match.

Unfortunately, the anniversary was not so memorable as the Manchester weather drove the last nail into the coffin of the second Test. And not even two innings could be completed in the fixture, leaving the series open, and India in quest of squaring matters at The Oval.

If the visitors had gone into this series with the object of holding out till they got a good chance of victory, they can forget about it now, as with just one more Test to come they have to go all out for a win.

The gamble with Sandeep Patil, who was named Man of the Match, has proved to be an unqualified success, but the experiment with Suru Navak was not all that rewarding. Indeed, it was felt in several quarters that India should opt for Shival Yadav in the hope that he would provide an extra dimension to the bowling. He cannot be much worse as a batsman than Nayak and is certainly an equally good fielder. If he bowls well, it could just about give India that match-winning potential.

Yadav, in fact, is slated to feature in the Essex game, which could be of vital importance to him as a few wickets in the tie could ensure his return to the Test eleven.

Ian Botham suggested to me today that India could take a gamble with Roy in the manner they had done with Patil. But such an exercise would deprive the tourists of an extra bowler, unless, of course, a man like Yashpal Sharma is dropped, which is unlikely.

So, on what should be a faster and bouncier wicket at The Oval India go out to restore parity to the series. Three years ago, Sunil Gavaskar almost brought off an incredible victory at the same venue. The Englishmen have not forgotten this and after India's magnificent fight-back in this match they will be all that more cautious to avoid defeat. In other words, India will have to surpass themselves not to lose the series.

ASHIS RAY

# Of phone calls, promotion and cricket records

BOB WILLIS, England's new captain, explains how he took the news of his appointment

**I**N a month of fluctuating fortunes, I was cheered, of course, by Mr May's phone-call shortly after Warwickshire's defeat at the hands of Yorkshire. I was at home, feeling pretty low, and was completely taken by surprise by the selectors' decision. My first feeling was of elation, my second, a deep sadness for Keith Fletcher. I knew the Guine had been looking forward to renewing his challenge to Sunil Gavaskar on home soil after our frustrating winter.

A typical Good luck Goose and 'Don't worry about me I'll be all right' came down the phone line, from the heart of the Essex county side. I have spent many a relaxing weekend *chez* Fletcher, and I hope there'll be some more in the future. I only hope Keith's benefit makes up for that bitter disappointment.

I was looking forward to my first get together with the selectors, and I must say I was impressed by the homework they had evidently been doing. Selecting is a pretty thankless task, but I have a lot of faith in this current band, Peter May, Alec Bedser, Norman Gifford, and Alan Smith. I know it is an easy thing to say before battle commences, but I shall be surprised if this forum collapses under the pressure to which it will inevitably be subjected.

It is a time of transition for us all. I will dearly miss the companionship and skill of Gooch and Emburey, and



Glenn Turner

the professionalism of Boycott, Underwood and Knutt, but it will provide opportunity for a revival of some careers thought to be over, and the blossoming of some fresh names on the international scene. I for one do not consider the cupboard to be bare, and would only ask the media men to give the youngsters a chance to establish themselves in the County game before pushing their claims for heights beyond their present station. I'm all for encouraging the youth in the game, but not at the expense of losing rich talent by premature exposure.

The deposed Fletcher (left), and the king at present, Willis, in Bombay



Looking back over the month of May, apart from a couple of useful spells of new ball bowling and more remarkably, two or three substantial contributions with the willow wand, my form has not been all I would have liked during such a formative period in the County programme. We have done our share of leather-chasing already and have been on the wrong end of two new batting records.

The Boycott-Stevenson last-wicket stand was particularly frustrating since we have not often had sides floundering at 91 for 7 in recent years at Warwickshire. The actual partnership was a strange mixture indeed. Geoffrey was content to occupy the crease and pick up his ones and twos while seemingly expending most of his energies in talking to 'Steve'. 'Get in line or I'll hit you with this bat' was heard more than once, and when I tempted them with some 'less spirit' it was 'Just play straight, nice and straight'. Unfortunately for us, Graham listened to his long-time mentor and made life highly embarrassing.

Glenn Turner's tremendous achievement during our Bank Holiday fixture at Worcester was almost predictable. He loves playing against Warwickshire. I was told he averaged 71 before his triple-century effort. Although Glenn complained of weariness at the end of the day over a celebratory glass of bulldog, he did not appear to us to break sweat. What an eye this man has.

It has been interesting to ponder in my analyses to see his play develop over the years. I am convinced the one-day game and the use of the helmet have been major contributions to his success. His shot-making, forced upon him in the confines of limited-overs cricket, has been refined and adopted as part and parcel of the three-day technique. The rather bizarre waltzing around the crease against the West Indian quickies in 1980 is now less pronounced, but the will to beat the new ball still remains. The confidence given by the protective headgear releases all eye and brain power to the task of run-scoring instead of self-preservation.

Congratulations, Mr Turner. A remarkable accomplishment by an excellent professional. What a shame that the rift with New Zealand has yet to be healed. Turner's presence would surely make them a major force in world cricket.

So I bid farewell to a May of mixed moods and scant success, and prepare for June and the biggest challenge any cricketer can be given. I wonder how it will all work out? By the time you are reading this, players and Press will have passed their verdicts. I shall be interested to see what conclusions they reach.

COURTESY WISDEN CRICKET MONTHLY

# The captaincy: when analysed and written down

JOHN ARLOTT

**W**HEN David Gower was made captain of the MCC team to play against the Indian touring team he disclaimed immediate aspirations to the England captaincy. Some observers were surprised or dismayed, some of the colonels were horrified. It is hardly likely that the selectors committed themselves to the extent of asking him if he wanted to captain England. That is not the type of hypothetical question selectors generally put to young men with next to no experience of captaincy.

It is quite unlikely that Gower is the first man to indicate that he did not want the appointment, in the past, however, these matters received no publicity. Indeed, they simply were not mentioned outside the polite conversation that contained the decision.

Certainly both W G Grace and C B Fry could have had it more often than they did if they had not declared themselves unavailable for particular tours, and a similar situation probably arose with Wiltfred Wooller in 1950-51. It is virtually certain from some hasty appointments that others turned down the opportunity, certainly I S Jackson and 'Tip' Foster at different times, intimated reluctance—or inability—to take office.

Nowadays it is a weightier matter than it was. Playing stress is greater, public relations, Press conference, social demands increase it, and Test cricket continues all the year round. The pressure in Australia is not quite so great as in the seven day-a-week programme in England.

In Gower's case, too, he must have the example of Botham sharply in memory, and recognise that, coincidence—as he claims—or not, his loss and recovery of match-winning form coincided dramatically precisely with his posting and resignation as captain.

Derek Lodge in his recent and absorbing book, *Figures on the Green*, adduces statistics to show that the performances of a number of long serving captains actually improved after their appointment. That, of course, ignores the human factors which probably explain the figures, for, whatever may be said of batting, bowling or fielding, captaincy is essentially a human matter. In the first instance, it follows that the captain who loses form soon loses the post. Secondly, Test cricketers are usually mature, and have played

themselves at Test level, before they are appointed. Finally, which surely, is conclusive, they have been the kind of men who wanted the captaincy. Not every good cricketer cherishes that ambition, Jack Hobbs, for instance, protested when asked to take over the England side in 1926 after Arthur Carr was injured. He always disclaimed any wish to captain any team at all, and it would be hard to argue that he was not a talented player.

Greville Stevens and the Australian, Neil Harvey, had the experience and the cricket knowledge for the task but although each undertook it once in emergency, they had no wish to continue. There have, in fact, been a number of great Test players—such as Victor Trumper—who did not want it and, sadly, some, like Wally Hammond who never truly enjoyed it.

Those who positively wanted the job—and got it—are an oddly assorted bunch. It is difficult to find many similarities of character in the dashing and convivial Percy Chapman, the quietly introverted Len Hutton, and the courtously articulate Mike Brearley, or, for that matter, to discover much in common between the autocratic Archie MacLaren (with only four wins but 11 defeats from 22 Tests) and the unobtrusive but tenacious Ray Illingworth who, in 31 Tests won 12 and lost only five. Personal playing success has not always been reflected in match results. Peter May, for instance, the gentlemanly hard man, was a more successful batsman (an average of 55.00 against 35.54) as captain than as a team member, and, as Derek Lodge shows, scored 17.9 per cent of his team's runs. Yet, although he inherited an immensely strong team from Len Hutton, England won only three—and lost six—of 13 Tests against Australia during his reign. In extenuation though, it must be remembered that that included the series against the Australian 'chuckers'. In contrast, his contemporary, Colin Cowdrey, the gentlemanly non-hard man, averaged 38.10 as captain, his comparison with 46.16 as a team member, and won eight out of 27 Tests. Mike Brearley's average as an ordinary (and young) player was 24.29, as captain, 22.49. Yet his record in charge of the side for 31 matches shows 18 won (11 out of 18 against Australia) and only one series lost.

The Australians, indeed, have shown some striking advances in performance by captains, even Bradman's figures improved (104.57 against 96.47) and he won 15 and lost only three of 24 Tests. The formidable Warwick Armstrong showed an increase from 35.67 to 56.00 in batting and an improvement from 35.81 to 24.37 in bowling while he won eight out of 10 Tests. The figures increased from 33.73 to 54.04, 'Monty' Noble's batting went up from 25.12 to 38.15, Ian Chappell's 37.27 to 50.00. Greg Chappell's 49.74 to 60.04, Richie Benaud's bowling figures improved from 28.59 to 25.79. They, though, were fully mature when they came to the captaincy, and had a solid backing of experience.

What neither Mr. Lodge's figures nor the Test results can measure is the quality of men as captains. They must ultimately be limited by the quality of the players under them. No one can guess how much better, or how much more efficiently, they perform when handled by a captain with the capacity to motivate them, or to direct them strategically. Any one who observed them, though, must feel that under Len Hutton, the English team developed considerably in effectiveness, and that Ray Illingworth quite strikingly made the best of his side so that it performed above the sum of its talents. Certainly too, Mike Brearley had a considerable capacity not merely for extracting effort from players but of using them more effectively than even they themselves sometimes realised.

The poor captain or—to be fair—the unsuccessful captain, is the one who cannot detach himself from his own efforts—which, heaven knows, are demanding enough at Test level to occupy any man's whole attention—in order to identify with any of ten other men on the field or in the dressing-room. That is not necessarily a flaw, one can either do it or not; the knack is not compellable.

In David Gower's case it would be odd indeed if he did not recall that quite recently he was being berated by critics for not concentrating sufficiently hard on his batting or on building large innings. The time to think of him—or for him to think of himself—as a captain will be after he feels he has solved his own problems thoroughly enough to concentrate on other people's.

COURTESY WISDEN CRICKET MONTHLY



# My boys did their best

P. K. BANERJEE reviews the performances of the Indian football team in the President's Cup tournament at Seoul

**D**USK was descending on the city when our plane touched down at the Seoul airport. After disembarking, we went straight to the immigration department and there we met with the first difficulty on the tour. Some discrepancies were found in our papers and we had to wait for some time to get things sorted out by the officials concerned.

After temporary visas were granted to us, we were taken straight to a five star hotel right in the heart of the city of Seoul, the Garden Hotel. There I realised that the only foreign team that had reached before us were Eindhoven of Holland. They were a famous team with at least six former World Cuppers in their ranks. Of them, four have played in World Cup finals and one has the distinction of two World Cup final appearances. The latter was Kekov, an outstanding outside right.

Then we heard about the Operao team of Brazil who were also to take part in the competition. Apart from them, the other powerful foreign teams to fight for the title were Livakoojen, a second division team, along with sides from Bahrain, Malaysia, Thailand and so on.

Of them, the most famous side was undoubtedly Eindhoven. In Europe they are regarded as a top-ranking team and indeed this year they were the favourites in the league championship. But for their defeat at the hands of Ajax Amsterdam, they could have finished first.

Anyway, I was a bit anxious to know about the practice facilities available and started gathering information on this score from officials present. At the same time I was a bit worried about the jet lag that my players were suffering from. So I ordered them to go to bed shortly after reaching the hotel.

Next morning we went for our first workout. The weather was pretty cold, very much like a wintry Indian day. At the practice ground we met the Dutch team, who were already working out. However, the condition of the ground was not up to standard. In fact, it was not suitable for practice at all, with the surface being extremely uneven. Running on it always posed the risk of injury. We discussed the problem with the Dutch team officials and sought their



Alak Mukherjee—best performance thus far

advice. They told us not to do any thing more than some warm up exercises and we followed suit.

But misfortune was in store for us. Bidesh sprained his ankle badly, causing much consternation among the entire team. He was an asset to the side, with his speed and tremendous dribbling capacity. Maybe he lacks in skill but he compensates for that with his unpredictable style of running, which gives my frontliners an added advantage in penetrating the opposing defence. The sole reason for his injury was the uneven surface of the practice pitch. Immediately, I informed the officials and requested them to give us suitable training facilities.

The following day we were taken to another ground, the Highway Development Corporation ground and there was no inconvenience regarding practice thereafter, though of course the condition of this ground was not very good either.

Then started the tournament. Before leaving India I had two very special aims in mind—to defeat Indonesia and Bahrain in the group matches and to avoid defeat at all costs against South Korea and the team from Holland. For the last ten months I had been coaching more or

less the same team and my assessment of my players was that they were capable of beating the second and third grade teams in Asia. During the Nehru Cup we had taken on superior teams from Asia, Europe and South America and our performances were quite competent. Yet, I had my doubts about whether the boys were really prepared well enough to beat the top-ranking sides of the Continent.

Anyway, of the ten sides taking part in the competition, five teams are likely to play in the forthcoming Asian Cup. Three of them were in the same group and the remaining two in the other two groups. We did not have to play against Malaysia and Thailand, but we saw them in action at the Seoul National Stadium where the next Asian Games will be staged in 1986.

In the first match I really felt sorry for the South Koreans. In spite of matching the powerful Eindhoven players in almost all departments of the game, they had to come out empty-handed. True, Eindhoven were superior to them, especially the way they scored the two goals against Korea from almost half-chances, showed their real capabilities. But the Koreans were unawed and put up a stiff fight. It was really brave of them.

The following day we lost to Indonesia. I have still not been able to figure out what really went wrong with us. India had never played such an aggressive game on foreign soil in many years. We kept our rivals under pressure throughout the match and yet we had to lose. The only reason perhaps was the fact that we could not utilise the six scoring opportunities that came our way during the match, whereas the Indonesians cashed in on a sudden misunderstanding between the custodian and the defenders to clinch the issue. We really felt the loss keenly.

In the second match we faced the same South Korean team that played in the Nehru Gold Cup. Naturally, we were more or less acquainted with their style of play, especially their strategy. Three players usually act as the pivot of their offence. We made it a point that they would be kept under strict vigil. Indeed, this helped us to prove equal to the Korean challenge.

In the 15th minute we first broke through the Korean defence to reach their goal area and the first shot towards the mark was taken in the 42nd minute. But unfortunately, the Koreans suddenly got a goal in the second half, off a free-kick movement.

You must be able to recall the way the Koreans scored a number of goals during the Nehru Gold Cup by hoodwinking defenders in freekick movements. This goal came about in almost the same fashion, when the Korean left midfielder stormed past



Compton and centred the ball, aiming at a six-foot frontliner. Afraid that he might head the ball home, Monoranjan made a diving header which was highly risky. Bhaskar also dived forward similarly, and the next moment I saw the ball enter the net off Monoranjan's head. In the previous match the Koreans had beaten Indonesia 4-0. Had they not won this match they would have found themselves in trouble.

However, I have noticed one very encouraging trend in my team of late. The greater the challenge, the stiffer the resistance they put up. But the problem is we are failing to maintain our stamina. Before our third match against the Dutch side their coach told Pfeifer jokingly, "Fight goals to Bahrain. How many would you like to swallow?" Pfeifer himself was very respectful toward this team.

But when the real challenge came, our boys shocked their 'superiors' by shooting into the lead in the 50th minute when C. B. Thapa scored brilliantly.

The setback stung the Indian side. They withdrew Gills the forward of the national team, fielded a six-foot forward instead and changed their entire strategy. From then on, their policy became to lob the ball to this substitute so that he could beat us in the air. My boys also rose to the occasion, especially Sudip Bhaskar and Alok, the latter playing perhaps the best game of his career so far. Except on one occasion he never allowed Kerkov, the famous right winger of the Dutch team to gain control of the ball.

But, there was misfortune in store for us. In the 70th minute Compton suffered an injury. While we were busy with him the referee ordered the resumption of play and the Dutch equalised unopposed.

The next morning, our local daily wrote, "This team will play for India in the Asian Games. The top-ranking teams of Asia should prepare themselves accordingly."

We lost the next match against Bahrain also but I don't know why the goal scored by Shablin was disallowed.

My boys toiled hard. Perhaps never before has an Indian side worked so sincerely to win an international tournament. It was only in shooting that they went wrong. What they need now is the instinct to score—being in the right place at the right moment—now, that is something which cannot be taught to anybody. That is an innate capacity which players like Mewalal possessed in their heyday.

Before the Asiad, we are going to take part in only one international competition. And I must say that we have reached a certain standard in Asian football. Something really great will be achieved the day we will rise to even greater heights.

## News: National

### CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

# East Bengal win first big battle

P.K. BANERJEE reviews the first crucial match

IN direct contrast to the kind of soccer I had witnessed at Seoul where teams from Holland, Brazil, South Korea and other countries displayed their skills during the President's Cup, the crucial Senior Division League match between reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting and East Bengal left one slightly aghast at the appalling standard of the game.

While I still try to recollect the Seoul matches and relish them, this match really dealt me a blow. What a

difference it made. Let me put it in black and white. When compared to Indian standards, the first session of this tie was abysmally low. Of course, there were certain reasons which cannot be overlooked: the weather, for instance, was the major culprit.

While the Calcuttans patiently await the monsoons—already belated—the scorching heat and humidity took its toll on players of both teams. Strangely enough, a few seasons ago, at the same time of the year, the Eden Gardens presented

*Jamshid and Pulek Biswas in a tussle for the ball*





Anup Das header enters the net past an outstretched Pratap Ghosh

Mdm Base was not in his element and skipper Amalraj had to work harder to compensate for this while Mohammedan S.C.'s young media Debasis Mishra rose nobly to the occasion and was able to wrest the ball twice from Mitr and create dangerous situations. Anyway it was Amalraj who was the best among the midfield players.

After the breathing East Bengal were an altogether different complexion. They became more aggressive but within six minutes sacrificed two chances. It was quite to watch the Mohammedan S.C. defence cave in under the assault. For that period, when the opponents were everywhere I could only sympathise with Moidul Islam and Pami Dorji for the manner in which they struggled. During one such move East Bengal lost a scoring chance substitute Sujit Chakraborty sent a low centre to Subir Sarkar who from five yards gave Pratap Ghosh ample time to save the situation.

The day saw the goalkeepers from both sides come to their knees under the bar but it was Pratap Ghosh who put in a greater effort than Tapash. Each of them however blundered once. Subir Sarkar's Jamshid jab Tapash left his ear open and somersaulted in getting to the ball but lost his grip without Pole Biswas at his side. A sudden dash on the right by Debasis Kayum on that too late had only to place the ball but he could not control his speed and fell over in stride. Tapash has a good future ahead of him in English football but to expect crowd his supporters' praise. He must also remember that no world famous goalkeeper some resents unless the situation demands it.

As for Pratap Ghosh his only mistake resulted in a goal in the 24th minute. Tapash Das who replaced Subir Sarkar centred from the right and the ball swung in but Pratap was staggered too far to the left of the

post and that was his undoing as he was a little slow to take his stance to prevent Anup Das's header from entering the net. Anup was an Asiad runner once and one thing I must say about him is that he is cool and clear headed in this type of a situation. A similar goal was also scored by Halub against Mohun Bagan in the 1980 Federation Cup.

Both teams fielded junior players but the way they performed clearly indicated that they have not qualified as yet to substitute the senior players who are in the Asiad camp. The fact remains however that some of the juniors sparkle in patches. Shankar Adhikari has good foot work but he cannot keep up the tempo for more than 15 minutes while Pulak Biswas plays well as long as he can keep up.

East Bengal's first big win has put them in an advantageous position on the league table whereas Mohun Bagan will have to prevail over Mohammedan Sporting if they are to remain in the title contest. As for Mohammedan S.C. their chances in retaining the title are dimmer than ever after this contest heavy conditions because of the rains. But this was absent during this first vital encounter.

Despite the unfavourable playing conditions East Bengal made sporadic attacks, while Mohammedan S.C. tried to put up a combined team effort with some success. Had the genuine champions utilised a good opportunity through Shankar Adhikari, the story might have been altogether different. In the twelfth minute of the game, a Khabazi cross was headed by the unmarked Majid but Shankar failed to make use of. But he failed to utilise the gap created by Biswas and Pulak Biswas. There was a collective groan from the fans when, at a range of ten yards he wasted the opportunity with custodian Tapash Chakraborty at his mercy.

East Bengal's counterattack revolved around Karick Sett and Subir Sarkar both of whom have a similar style. They are fast but lack ball control. They could have been made to work effectively had there been a player who could create an opening for them. The only consolation for both in the first half was that they made two brilliant centres which were wasted by Akbar who is gradually becoming a spent force. Ten years ago Akbar would have capitalised on such centres but all he could do on this day was to feebly touch the ball with his head.

Most of the time the ball was in the midfield but the linkmen of both sides played shabbily with the result that the forwards had to exert themselves more than usual. Besides I did not see more than two occasions when the medians created a dangerous situation. As for Majid's performance it left me quite frustrated. Presently he is just a shadow of what he was a couple of years ago. It is sad indeed that he is now comparable to any ordinary Indian player. A great player like him has now lost both speed and skill. As for the other two Indians Jamshid and Khabazi the less said the better.

Coming back to Majid, he lost the best chance of the day which could have changed the tide of the entire game. A few minutes before half time Jamshid's spoon in Majid via Khabazi was powerfully volleyed straight into the goalkeeper. A couple of seasons ago, the same player would have converted it with ease. He looked both Biswas and Pulak Biswas and could also have dribbled past the last line to tap home the ball, but instead Majid sent a left foot volley for a confident Tapash Chakraborty to fist out. I must applaud Tapash for his brilliant piece of work. He was cool and confident in such a situation, the like of which would have tested many renowned custodians.

# Mohun Bagan get the jitters

With Mohammedan S. C's engagement prior to their crucial tie against East Bengal being called off, the latter were given the shivers against lowly-placed Police A. C. SARAJIT DEB and SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL report on the matches

**EAST BENGAL.** With the big match against Mohammedan Sporting round the corner, the home team was expected to put up a morale-boosting display during their encounter against perhaps one of the weakest teams in the running for the league title, Police. But all expectations were belied as the red-and-yellow outfit scraped through by virtue of a solitary goal which came as late as the 10th minute of play.

Most of the time before that the East Bengal frontliners hovered around the Police half line making half-hearted attempts to score. But neither was their power nor coordination in their attacks despite the presence of such veterans as Mihir Bose and Mohammed Habib the master move schemers of the team. Both of them looked out of form and could give little trouble to the Police defenders. In fact the whole atmosphere was one of complacency with even such hard workers as Bala Mukherjee and Kartick Sengupta seeming to have no interest in the proceedings or for that matter the outcome of the match.

But the one man who was ever vigilant in his duty was Tapas Chakraborty the East Bengal custodian. As the Police forwards sought to go on the offensive taking full advantage

of the lethargic attitude of the East Bengal players, forwards and defenders alike, there took place a number of raids on the latter's citadel and some of them could well have spelled danger for the big club, had Tapas showed any sign of weakness or nervousness. At one stage Babla Samaddar came quite close to putting their superior rivals in trouble when he took a beautiful shot at the goal, which could have caused East Bengal a setback but for Tapas who fisted the ball over the bar equally brilliantly.

To sum up, there was hardly any thing to criticise in East Bengal's game, neither strategy nor any other tactical aspect, except their disinterested attitude. Never did they seem to take things seriously. Eventually they won, but it was a kind of victory that leaves little impression on the minds of even the staunchest supporters of the club.

**MOHUN BAGAN.** The home team were given the shock of their lives when the determined Calcutta Gymkhana defenders held the fort for 66 long minutes. It was only at this stage that the evergreen opportunists Shyam Thapa played himself at the right position in front of the

*Surajit Sengupta (without jersey) argues with one of the lineemen after their tie against Gymkhana*



*Police goalkeeper Sarichel leaps to collect the ball before East Bengal's Kartick Sengupta gets to it*

goalmouth and nodded in from a Surajit Sengupta centre. It brought a sigh of relief from the thousands who had come to watch the match.

It was not that Mohun Bagan played very badly, but they kept missing one chance after another from the very beginning. Amitava Mukherjee fumbled from close quarters on two occasions and these lapses were followed by a weak back volley by Shyam. The wingers Surajit and Denis Williamson also had their share of missed chances. And then,

# The Ashok Group: Official Hoteliers and Caterers to the IX Asian Games Delhi 1982.

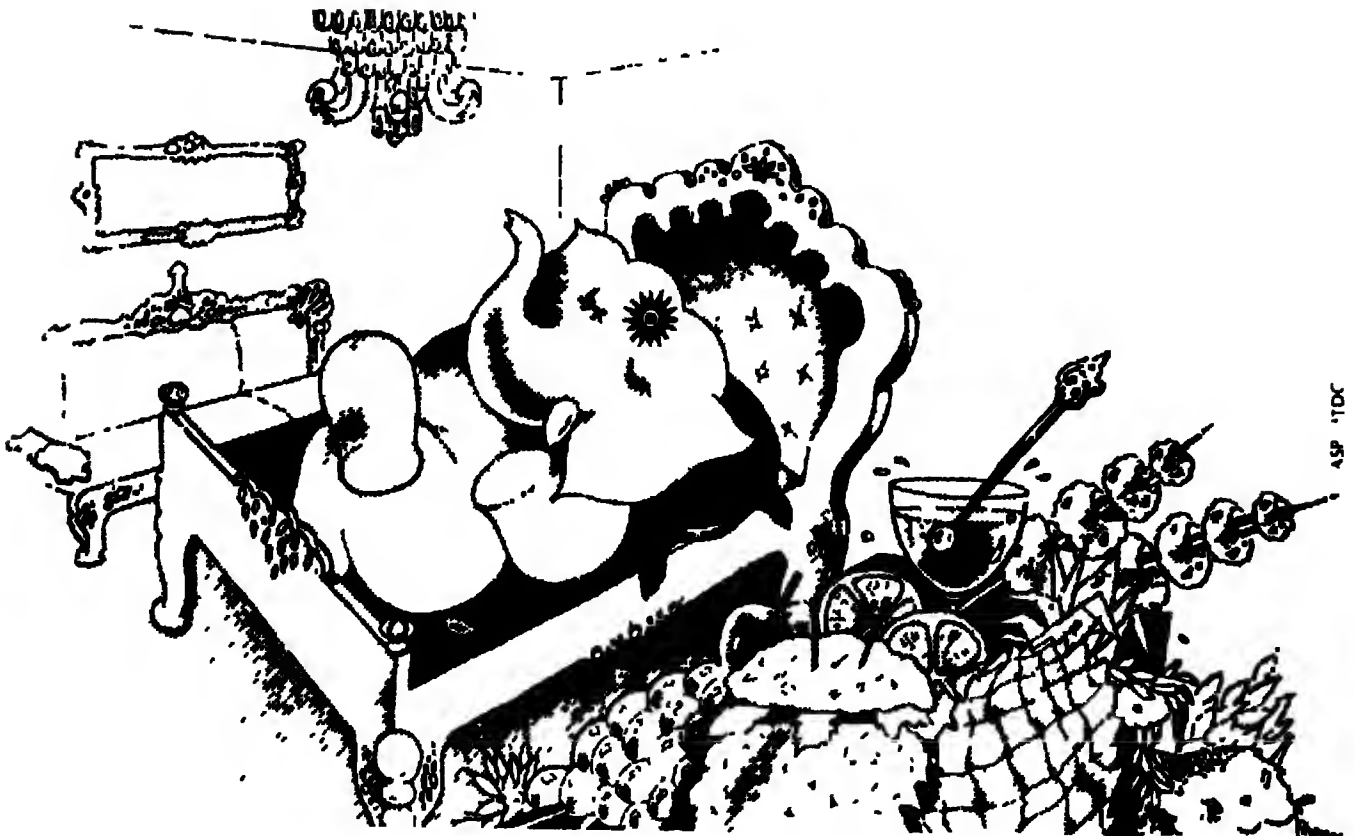
Come November and Delhi will welcome over 5,000 Asiad participants. And the Ashok Group will be busier than ever before, upholding its reputation as a caring host.

The Ashok Group has been appointed the Official Hoteliers and Caterers to the IX Asian Games. The Group will be in charge of the entire catering services in the Asian Games Village Complex. Its kitchen and dining hall, which will be the biggest in India, have been designed to serve meals—to 5,000 people Every day for 15 days.

And in the tradition of the perfect host, the Ashok Group offers to all sports fans throughout the country, 9 hotels with a total of over 2500 rooms, in the heart of Delhi: Ashok, Akbar, Qutab, Janpath, Kanishka, Samrat, Lodhi, Ranjit and Ashok Yatri Niwas. The widest range of accommodation in the Capital to suit everyone's taste - and pocket!



India Tourism Development Corporation 



in the closing stages of the first half, they were unlucky when a shot by Bikash Panji hit the post.

The second half continued in the same fashion. They made a desperate change, moving Subrata Bhattacharya over as a striker. In fact, just when the supporters were losing all hope, Shyam did the trick. The manner in which the Mohun Bagan attacked can be gauged by the fact that they earned several flag kicks but to no gain.

The Gymkhana players, especially stopper Utpal Sui fought well. Some times they adopted tough tactics,

especially with regard to Surajit, but referee Ajoy Lahiri tended to ignore things. On certain occasions he was unfair towards the Mohun Bagan players. Perhaps this was the reason why the otherwise quiet Surajit charged towards him with his jersey after the match. But before he could take any drastic steps, the club officials and some of the team's national players—who were watching the match from the sidelines stopped him. Whatever be the reason, an experienced player like Surajit should not have acted in that

**I**N the second match of the week, against Kalighat, linkman Gautam Sarkar and wing back Dilip Palit were fielded for the first time this season. Though Gautam, after recovering from an ankle injury, did not labour as we are used to see him, nevertheless his timely passes helped the team tremendously. He continuously fed the other linkman, Krishnendu Roy, who executed some fine centres and runs down the middle. And the 3-0 victory was not a true index of Mohun Bagan's superiority.

After missing a couple of openings, Mohun Bagan forged ahead through Amitava Mukherjee. He got the ball outside the box, dodged past two defenders, the first with an outside dodge and the next with an inside dodge and took a feeble left footed shot, but nevertheless a well placed one. The custodian, Bijon Chakravarty, was perhaps unsighted as the ball hit the side net.

They continued exerting pressure after the change of ends, and for most of the time the ball was confined to the Gymkhana half. True to the run of play, they scored two goals in the last five minutes. The first was a self goal, by Surajit Ghosh. Krishanu Dey ran down the right side and centred with Shyam following the ball, but it deflected off the defender's feet into the net. After a flag kick, the ball came to Gautam who sent a beautiful centre across the goalmouth for Krishanu to nod in the third goal.

The Kalighat players fought hard and never gave anything away. Their goalkeeper, Bijon Chakravarty played well, protected his citadel on a number of occasions, and saved a beautiful pile-driver by the overlapping wing back Dilip Palit. Stopper Surajit Ghosh played sensibly and nipped many a dangerous move in the bud. Then there were the twin strikers, Debasis Dhar and Krishnendu Sengupta, who posed a few problems to the Bagan defence.

From the home team, stopper Satyajit Ghosh played sound football never giving the opponent forwards any leeway. With the introduction of Dilip Palit, the defence looked more compact and his timely overlapping helped to initiate many a move. Subrata sometimes moved up through the middle and whenever he did that, he looked dangerous. In the forward line, all tried but in the absence of Surajit was badly felt on the wet, slippery ground. Coach Sankar Banerjee said, "In the first match we kept missing sitters and after a certain period the players were tense because they were not getting the goal. Against Kalighat I think we played well and there was more speed and thrust in the attack."

## Advertising their own bias?

**T**HE Asian Games Organising Committee has not followed the normal convention and procedures while awarding the advertising contract for the stadium to a Dubai-based company.

The MEETCO group of companies has been appointed the sole worldwide concessionaires for all in-stadia advertising at the ninth Asian Games in New Delhi from 19 November, 1982 to 4 December.

In a rather intriguing move, MEETCO submitted their sealed bid and secured the contract following negotiations across the table. Why the organising committee never invited open tenders will remain an eternal mystery. It would have been only fair and ethical if the committee had made it publicly known about the bids being submitted and further the individual value of such bids. The way events have transpired, one does not know whether MEETCO's bid was the highest or for that matter which was the next best bid.

The contract between the committee and MEETCO was signed in Dubai, in the first week of March. It would have been more in the fitness of things if the deal had been executed in Delhi.

Under the terms of the contract, MEETCO will pay a guarantee of six million dollars to the committee. A bank guarantee to this effect has been executed. In case the games are cancelled or postponed the committee will have to pay MEETCO six million dollars as damages.

The MEETCO group of companies, which has a turnover of 500 million dollars, deals in canned carbonated beverages, insurance, chemicals, electronic goods and foodstuffs. According to a spokesman of MEETCO, "There will be 1600 advertising sites at the 17 stadia for the Asian and will cost anything from 2,500 dollars to 25,000 dollars."

According to conservative esti-

mates if all sites are sold, MEETCO should make anything in the region of 12 million dollars, says Hussain Sajwani, partner and managing director of MEETCO. "Of this six million dollars will go to the Asian Games committee, a fifteen per cent commission towards advertising agencies, 15 million dollars approximately towards our costs. We look upon this exercise as commercial venture and naturally expect to make something out of it."

A total of 55 per cent of the available advertising space will be sold to international companies, 20 per cent to international cigarette manufacturers and 25 per cent to Indian companies, Sajwani informs. "This 25 per cent for Indian advertisers will generate three million dollars worth in rupees and the same will be paid to the committee. The other three million dollars due to the organisers will be paid in foreign currency." This means that the rest of the money will be made and kept abroad.

Generally, at similar international sporting events, advertising of cigarettes is taboo as it is considered to be in direct conflict with the health and spirit of sport. But for the ninth Asian Games the committee has decided that cigarette advertising will be accepted and that liquor advertising should be banned.

The recent India-Pakistan hockey matches in Dubai were sponsored by Dixi Cola, a soft drink manufactured by the MEETCO group. A K Advertising Private Limited, an Indian firm headed by film star Sanjay Khan, is representing MEETCO in this country.

Denying that political connections or behind-the-door manoeuvrings have enabled MEETCO to secure the contract, Sanjay Khan said "It was like any other business deal. We got it on merit."

**HARESH MUNWANI**



## Premature somersaults

**SOMERSAULTS**—yes, two somersaults were performed—one in nervousness and one in joy, but both prematurely.

The scene of this drama was the first battle of giants of the current league that took place at the Eden Gardens between East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting. The man guarding the East Bengal citadel was Tapas Chakraborty, that tall, promising custodian of the club who has been keeping goal since the beginning of this year's league and quite competently, too.

Now, this was an acid test for Tapas and he was fully fit to meet the challenge. Wave after wave of powerful raids from the Mohammedan Sporting side kept the East Bengal defenders busy in the early part of the game. Tapas stood firm to give a good account of himself, making a number of brilliant saves, the most spectacular one of which came towards the end of the first half. It was a Majid-Tapas confrontation. The former took a volley just in front of the East Bengal goal and all eyes instantly turned to the net in anticipation to see the ball entangled in it. But no, it was not a goal. Tapas saved it and a miracle was performed.

This was a feat of agility and extreme alertness. Now, here is a story of fumbling that gave thousands of East Bengal supporters a few heart stopping moments. The central character is once again Tapas Chakraborty and the reason an unnecessary somersault. In the 19th minute of the second half in an attempt to thwart a Jamshed move he took a somersault which was uncalled for on one hand and mistimed on

## Maidan musings

the other. The inevitable result was that the ball slipped out of Tapas' hand and lay awaiting an onrushing Debashis Roy. But the latter failed to cash in on such a gem of an opportunity, and the crisis was over. Careful, Tapas. Those are not moments to play to the gallery. Practise them during matches against inferior rivals with your club officials around.

So much for the first somersault. What about the second? It came after the final whistle was blown when the major

portion of the stands burst into a deafening roar. The scene was much more dramatic and eye-catching this time, the protagonist being none other than the chief man behind the stage in East Bengal's victory—coach Amal Dutta. His joy knew no bounds and the result was a few somersaults right on the pitch—a sight worth watching and remembering.

But the question is were not these somersaults premature too? One enemy down, true,

but others are there preparing heart and soul before meeting their arch rivals once again and tables can be turned before long. Therefore, till then it's better to stand upright than upside down.

## Soccer sweetmeat

**T**HE man was carrying a packet with the label of a famous confectioner pasted on it. As he neared the entrance of the ground where one of the big clubs was to play a league match, the policemen on duty stopped him and enquired about the contents of the pasteboard box. Wearing an innocent and somewhat surprised look, the man, dressed in a kurta and pyjama, replied that he was carrying some sweets which he would distribute among the spectators in the event of his favourite team's victory. But the cops were not satisfied and seemed suspicious that the man must be carrying some missiles inside the packet.

They kept insisting that the box be opened and the contents shown to them. But the man was equally adamant that since it was food he would not show it to them on religious grounds. At last, after a prolonged argument the policemen relented and allowed him into the ground, disarmed mainly by the innocent looks of the man. But a surprise was in store for them. A few minutes later a piece of stone hit the iron gate beside which the policemen were standing on duty. Bewildered, they looked up at the stands to be greeted with a big grin—the same man was standing there with the packet of sweets in his hand. The next moment the box was overturned and what poured out was nothing else but a few pieces of stone.



Tapas' somersault

# Oak the talented

THE Intab championships in New Delhi from June 21 to 24 heralded the arrival of anew youngster on the national table tennis scene. Unseeded Neeraj Oak of Gujarat confidently brushed aside all opposition, which included the two top seeds Arunjoy Barua of Assam and Satbir Singh of Delhi, to take the boys' title.

Watching Oak strike down his opponents, there was little doubt that among all the juniors on view he alone possessed a champion's all round game. From top-spin to smash, from chops to counter, backhand or

straight games, over Arunjoy Barua Oak won 21-18, 21-19 to create a big surprise. But, again, there was no denying that the Gujarat lad deserved it thoroughly. Earlier, he had beaten Delhi's bespectacled R. K. Ramesh in three games. Ramesh also had a win over Barua to his credit in their pool in the league stage for the last eight.

Beating Ramesh, who plays with a bat covered with "dead" rubber and who has little use for strokes taught in the manuals of the game, is never an easy task as many an opponent has learnt to his cost. Ramesh, unorthodox and a clever improviser, who won the national sub-junior title in 1980 at Durgapur, took the number four position in the final standings.

Bhardwaj was awarded the newly-instituted Parthiv Vyas Trophy for the best loser. Bhardwaj had lost to Satbir Singh 14-21, 16-21 in their pool match in the last eight stage.

more surprises.

In a tournament where the general standard provided little to enthuse over, Ganesh Kundu of West Bengal was an exception. Ganesh, who went on to win the sub-junior title to the great joy of at least one of his fans who rang up every night from Calcutta for the latest results of the boy's matches, showed refreshing talent—the type of talent that can take him far in the game. In a final of scintillating pace and aggression, Ganesh beat Assam's Indip Durwaha 18-21, 21-7, 21-18 in 28 minutes.

The sub-junior girls' final, however, was a very tame affair in which Shilpa Takelkar of Maharashtra beat Jyoti Mehta of Madhya Pradesh 21-9, 21-10 in ten minutes. Shilpa was third in the girls' event which was won by Karnataka's Vaishali Eshprabu, who beat Saloni Mahajan of Jammu and Kashmir in a disappointing final at 21-19, 21-13.

After the 200-odd participants



Neeraj Oak of Gujarat (left) and Ganesh Kundu of Bengal receive the trophies from Anil Bajaj, Director of Education, Delhi Administration



forehand, Oak was all the time one up on his rivals. Nothing delights the connoisseur to see a new challenge emerge and succeed at a national tournament.

The way he handled the better known Satbir Singh in the final will not be easily forgotten by the latter who had the advantage of playing in his very own hall at the elitist Modern School. It was all over in barely 13 minutes. Oak winning in straight games at the expense of 14 and 13 points. He rushed through the final like a person in a hurry to catch a train.

If Satbir's flowing forehand earned him a number of points, Oak displayed a superior backhand flick which surprised the local boy repeatedly. Oak was also the steadier of the two. Both were eager to attack the return of service. Oak was more effective here too.

Before handing Satbir his worst defeat in a long time Oak had moved into the final with a victory, also in

The trophy is a gesture by the Delhi Table Tennis Association in memory of Parthiv Vyas who died in Bombay earlier this year. Parthiv, 19, had spent his early years learning the game in the table tennis halls of Delhi, and before the family moved to Bombay in 1980 had with his elder brother, Nishith, served the State with distinction.

A mention of Parthiv, who played in the 1980 Intab Championships at the same venue, tempts one to compare the standard of this year's tournament with the earlier one. But one is disappointed to report that the youngsters seen this time were far below the standard of those seen here two years ago when Sujay Chopade and Parthiv Vyas dominated the scene. Not even Niraj Oak measures up to their standard, though that does not mean that Oak has no future in the game. Given reasonable talent, the future belongs to the player with the capacity to work hard. Oak may go on to create many

from 18 States returned home, the organising committee, a one-man affair handled by Hukam Singh, manager of our team in the Asian championships at Jakarta, found it sell in a soup. Unlike in 1980, the Delhi administration this time refused to meet the major share of the bill. Last time it had aided the organisers to the tune of Rs. 21,000, but this time they were not willing to grant more than Rs. 5,000. Mr Singh claims that it was on the assurance from the Education Directorate of the Delhi administration that he had bid for the tournament. To meet the deficit of about Rs. 15,000 the Delhi Table Tennis Association will now have to send the hat round, or perhaps it may print another souvenir to raise money. However, the organisers are happy that all of them have gone home carrying happy memories of the hospitality at the Modern School hostel.

A CORRESPONDENT, Delhi



## Of appeals and verdicts

The time is not far off when there will be brawls and free for alls in cricket matches as is the case with football. Cricketers, a pampered lot all over the world, particularly in India where they are virtually 'worshipped', indulge in all kinds of antics, fair and unfair, incite crowds and cause trouble. Everyone condemns such actions, but the evil grows unabated.

It is not very rarely that fielding sides make mass appeals to gain favourable decisions. While, sometimes such an uproar accompanying an appeal may be caused by strained nerves or over-excitement, it is generally done deliberately to mislead the umpire and thus get an advantageous verdict. It is for this reason that instructions to umpires say "Don't be influenced by the volume and confidence of an appeal, but do not disregard a half-hearted appeal".

While there are many instances in first-class cricket when umpires have reversed their decisions, there are very few instances when decisions have been



given without any appeal.

An amazing incident occurred in the MCC-Argentina match in 1926-27 when W H Marshall fell on his wicket when playing a ball from White. He thought he was out 'hit wicket'. He started walking back to the pavilion when suddenly he returned. He appealed to the main umpire who referred to the square-leg umpire. The square-leg umpire gave the verdict that Marshall was not out as he had trodded on his wicket after he had completed his stroke.

There are instances when an umpire's decision has been ignored. Such an irregularity has taken place even in a Test match. In the New Zealand-England first Test in 1950-51, Washbrook was given out LBW. But the New Zealand skipper, W A Hedlee, thought otherwise. He was sure that Washbrook had played the ball and hence could not be out LBW. He did not care for the umpire's verdict and

asked Washbrook to continue his innings.

Until 1935, an appeal was sustained if it was made 'at' and not 'after' the cessation of play. In 1935 in the Essex-Surrey tie at The Oval, Peter Smith (Essex) made a stroke off the last delivery of the first day's play to a point where Gample scooped the ball up. Stumps were uprooted, but as the players were returning to the pavilion, the Surrey skipper made an appeal against Smith for a catch. Smith was declared out by the umpire, and the MCC upheld his decision.

But soon afterwards the MCC added a note to the law stating that in future no appeal could be made after the umpires had called time and removed the bails at any cessation of play including intervals.

Except when the decision is 'out' an appeal does not render the ball dead as is presumed by many players and officials. Many batsmen have paid the

penalty of being declared stumped or run out for loitering about outside the crease after an appeal is made. In the 1936 County Championship, Paynter survived an appeal for caught behind. He was, however, standing outside the crease and the wicketkeeper removed the bails. Paynter was declared stumped.

It was the realisation of the plight of the umpires that compelled Neville Cardus to write "The amount of concentration he is expected to perform every day is almost an abuse of human endurance. What a great country this (England) would be if every man, whatever his station, concentrated half as much on the smallest detail of his work as an umpire is compelled to do, from high noon to dewy evenings of a cricket match!"

Here are some problems.

Q: Is it beneficial for an umpire to bend down?

A: Yes, it helps him watch the trajectory of the ball before

and after pitching. Quite a number of umpires are in the habit of standing sideways when the bowler runs up to deliver the ball and then quickly changing their positions after the ball has been bowled. This is a bad habit and leads to many doubtful decisions.

Q: Can an umpire at the square-leg change his position?

A: Yes, he may, provided he informs the batsmen. The need for this arises when a batsman has a runner and the view of the umpire is obstructed by a close-in fielder.

Q: A runner, substituting for an injured batsman, was standing outside the popping crease. The wicketkeeper put the wicket down. Can the striker be 'run out'?

A: Yes, the striker will be declared "run out". It is obligatory for the runner to stay within his 'home'.

Q: Can a bowler or a batsman ask the umpire to change his position?

A: Players are the main actors and such requests should always be viewed sympathetically.



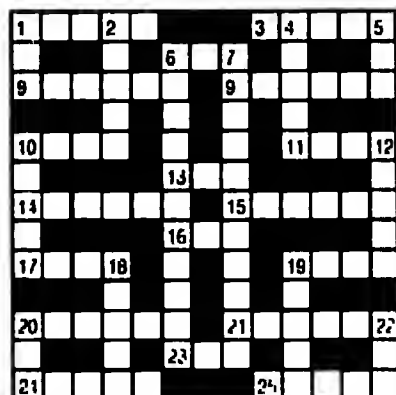
by trial



# Crossword

MUDAR

154



## ACROSS

- 1 Venue of the 1964 Olympic Games (5)
- 3 Omar of South Africa's cricket team has an unexpected surname (5)
- 6 This Barnes often squabbled with the Australian Board (3)
- 8 A mountaineer's European dream (1 5)
- 9 He is responsible in giving his side a good start in cricket (6)
- 10 Superlative for an English footballer (4)
- 11 Gavaskar has three scored 1000 runs in a calendar - (4)
- 13 Harold Harwood is shortened to this (3)
- 14 India's soccer king (6)
- 15 WCT's grand finals are held here (6)
- 16 Australian Cricket Board (1 1 1)
- 17 This state does not recruit players from outside the County (4)
- 19 Pakistani wicket-keeper begins with a drinking place (4)
- 20 One of cricket's best present after-dinner speakers (6)
- 21 'Big Bird' of West Indian cricket (6)
- 23 This West Indian batsman of yore returns with a hearing organ (3)
- 24 The 'Typhoon' returns (5)
- 25 A Richards, but not Vivian (5)

## DOWN

- 1 One of the Gulliksons with a circle in the middle (3)
- 2 An Austin, which is not a car, returns (5)
- 4 David of British athletics begins with a direction (5)
- 5 The Rovers' hero returns (3)
- 6 First American to win four golds in one Olympic Games has a nation in between (11)
- 7 First tennis player to do the Grand Slam (6, 5)
- 10 Charlton of the soccer world as he was affectionately known (5)
- 12 Italy's leading football player (5)

- 18 This Godfree of tennis fame begins with an equipment (5)
- 19 Table tennis 'great' (5)
- 20 Brearley feared that if something was not done one of his players would be hit by this in Australia (3)
- 22 What sets apart Sugar Leonard of boxing renown (3)

Excellent 30-27; Good 26-24, Fair 23-20

## Question box

Virendra Pratap Singh, Calcutta

Q Was Sunil Gavaskar out when he made 220 against West Indies in 1970-71?

A Yes

Vijayanand Chitrakar, Jaipur

Q In which Test did Vinoo Mankad get his 100th wicket and in which Test did he complete his 1000th run?

A Mankad completed 1000 runs in Tests in the second Test against England at Lord's in 1952 and 100 wickets in the third Test against Pakistan at Bombay in 1952-53

Sharmila Guha, Chabua

Q What is the maximum number of runs one can get out of a single delivery in cricket?

A The batsmen can go on running till the ball is finally returned back to the wicketkeeper or goes out of the boundary after overthrows

S B Satyanarayan, Hyderabad

Q Was there any player by the name of Kasturirangan who played in Indian cricket? Did he play at Hyderabad?

A Yes he represented Karnataka (erstwhile Mysore) in the Ranji Trophy and he did play in Hyderabad

E S H Bulu, Jamshedpur

Q Who was the first batsman of India to score a double century in Tests?

A Polly Umrigar who made 223 against New Zealand in the first Test at Hyderabad in 1955-56

P Ramanujulu, Kotturu

Q When did Gavaskar score his first Test century?

A At Georgetown in the third Test against the West Indies in 1970-71

## SOLUTION 153



Aniruddha P Rawal, Ahmedabad

Q During the 1979 tour to England, India has scored 96 runs in the first innings of the second Test at Lord's all these runs were scored off the bat and no extra was included in the total. Are there such instances when there were no extras in any total in a Test?

A Yes India holds the world of not conceding any extra in the highest total of 328 by Pakistan in the third Test at Lahore in 1954-55 when Narendra Tamhane was keeping wickets for India. This is the world record total in which no extra was included

## Quiz

### QUESTIONS

(All questions are on World Cup soccer)

- 1 Who was the goalie whom Pele almost beat with a lob from the half-way line?
- 2 Which former star has the real name of Manoel Francisco dos Santos?
- 3 The career of this World Cup star was threatened when a bone graft on his right foot did not take first time but he came back wearing boots with an extra stud and was his old self soon. Guess who?
- 4 Which World Cup star of Brazil was referred to in his country as a "tank" for his forceful bursts at the opposing goal?
- 5 What is the real name of Tostao?
- 6 Which star of Brazil's 1982 World Cup squad improved his frail health by a course of weightlifting and steroids?
- 7 Which great star of Brazil came to be known as the Black Diamond after his superb performance in a World Cup tournament?
- 8 The abscess on his right knee turned so bad that doctors almost decided on an amputation but this was avoided by skilful nursing. Otherwise this star would never have emerged on the World Cup horizon. Guess who?
- 9 Of the two Santos of Brazil's 1958 squad one was a black while the other was a white. Say who was which?
- 10 What does the CBD in Brazil's uniform emblem stand for?

### ANSWERS

- 1 Victor (Czechoslovakia)
- 2 Garrincha
- 3 Jairzinho
- 4 Vava
- 5 Eduardo Gonçalves de Andrade
- 6 Zico
- 7 Leonidas da Silva
- 8 Didí
- 9 Djalma was a black and Nilton was a white
- 10 Confederação Brasileira de Desportos

**Bhavakumar Pradhan, Hatamuniouda**

**Q** The first Test played between Australia and the West India at Bnsbane in 1960-61 ended in a tie. What were the scores by both the sides in the said match? Has there been any other Test which ended in a tie?

**A** West Indies scored 453 and 284 to which Australia replied with 505 and 232 in the only tied Test in the cricket history.

**Surendra Tatkare, Bombay**


**Q What is Eknath Solkar's Test record?**

A 77 Tests 48 innings six times not out 1068 runs 102 as his highest score 25 42 average, one century six fifties, one duck 53 catches 2265 balls bowled 82 maidens 1070 runs conceded 18 wickets captured average 59 44

## Bridge

I was approached the other day with a request for the 'best' way to play a suit of A Q x x facing K 10 9. I refused to answer until I discovered what was meant by best - it could have had a variety of meanings in the context of different hands. For example even with sufficient outside entries the best chance of four tricks seems to be playing off the top honours rather than trying a finesse of the ten. The best way of tackling the matter if one of the opponents had bid the suit would be quite different and so on. Oddly enough soon after considering this problem I chanced across this deal from *Logical Bridge Play* by H. W. Kelsey

♠ 7643  
♣ 962  
♥ K 9  
♦ A



♠ 832  
♣ G 3 F

♦ AQ  
♥ A J

♣ 532

out. Deal a game all and the bidding went

WEST	NORTH	EAST
100	100	100
100	100	100
100	100	100

Whether over 2NT you play Stayman  
 bid ♠ 5♣ and or transfers all  
 will lead to Rome and South should end  
 in 3NT

• Right you play in 3NT and West on  
 springing leads ♠ 8 Remember North  
 has suggested lead in hearts and that  
 is why West didn't choose to lead the suit  
 The lead takes away the club entry and  
 makes it difficult to establish the heart.  
 However declarer follows by finessing  
 ♣ Q which is allowed to win West can  
 see the position in the suit and knows that  
 it would be fatal for him to take his King  
 while dummy still has a certain entry Next  
 comes ♣ A and the bad news

Now how should South tackle the diamonds? Four tricks in the suit will land the contract but suddenly a new dimension has been added to the problem. A diamond to the ten will guarantee two entries to dummy and enable the heart

**Amitava Deb and Shoma Sen, Shillong.**

**Q Give the bowling figures of M A Holding of West Indies when he made his Test debut?**

**A M A Holding's bowling figures on his Test debut in the first Test against Australia at Brisbane in 1975-76 were 20-4-81-0 and 10-0-46-0**

**Q** What is the highest score by Kapil Dev in first class cricket?

**A 193 for Haryana versus Punjab at Chandigarh in 1979-80 in the Ranji Trophy**

**Srinekand. Alipour**

**Q** How many catches and stumpings has Alan Knott of England made in his Test career to now?

**A 250 catches and 19 stumpings in 95 Tests**

suit to be brought in even if  $\diamond 10$  loses to the Jack. Alas, there is a snag. If East gets in with  $\diamond J$ , he may return a spade and build up enough tricks for the defence. I hope that you have spotted the rather neat solution. Declarer must lead  $\diamond Q$  and overtake with the King! Now he clears the hearts (throwing a club from hand) and, as West cannot attack spades, has now got time to lead a low diamond to the ten and so establish the second entry to dummy.

**Last week's quiz.** The quotation for which I groped, obviously appropriate for teams play was, 'I don't know what effect these men will have on the enemy but by God they terrify me!' More practically, if I held ♠K♥KQ9♦AK7642♣Q63 and having opened 1♦ and heard one spade followed by two passes I would re-open with a double—just!

**This week's quiz** You have arranged to play transfer overcalls over 1 NT (2 ♣ shows hearts, 2 ♥ shows spades) but to your surprise your partner overcalls 1 NT with one heart. The opponents point out the insufficient bid and partner corrects to two hearts. He is all right - he has made his bid sufficient - but are you ethically bound to treat his bid as showing spades (as it should)?

# Chess

After their record run of 11 victories in the daily match Cambridge went down to a probably expected defeat this year when Oxford won 5-3 at the Royal Automobile Club, London, on March 13. It was the hundredth match of the series, now sponsored by Lloyds Bank, and it left the fight blues still well ahead at 45-38 with 17 matches drawn. The Lloyds Bank trophies for the best games from each team went to Penelope Corbin (Board 8 for Cambridge) and John Cox for the following Oxford win at Board 5. The game may serve as a model example of the dangers that Black can encounter if he tries to attack on the f side without properly completing his development and taking measures against White's plans on the other wing.

1 P 004 P-004, 2 P 003 P-003

**Sharmila Guha, Balijan North**

**Q** Is there any player who has scored over 1000 runs in a season of Ranji Trophy? If so, please name him

A Yes Rudi Modi of Bonibay has piled up 1008 runs from seven innings of five Ranji fixtures (twice not out) at an average of 201.60 runs, and with five centuries and one half century, 245 against Baroda being his highest score in the season of 1944-45.

**Q Who was Bombay's captain when she won the Ranji title for the first time?**

**A L P** Jel in 1934-35, i.e. the very first year of the tournament

**Maqbol Alam, Calcutta**

**Q** On which day was Sandeep Patil born?

**A 18 August 1956**

3 B - M2, B - M2, 4 M1 - M3, P - Q3  
5 M3 - M3, M2 - M3, 6 B - QM1, P - M4  
7 P - Q3, Q - Q, 8 P - QM4, M2 - M4

Now it could be argued that White advance on the  
Q side is rather early but the way for Black to  
attempt to prove that was primarily by a central  
attack. P is followed by Q and  
Q is suggested.

9 Q - 123, K - B1      10 O - O P - B5  
This is the individual who is mainly weakening his  
possibilities of maintaining while pressure is the

11 P - B5, R - Q2,	12 BP xP GWP xP
13 B - QK3, QK2 - K3,	14 P - KQ5, P - KX3
15 Q - KQ4 R - K1,	18 R - Q2, B - B2
17 R - Q4, B - B1,	19 Q - A5 B - K3
19 Q - B6, B - Q,	20 R - B5, QR - Q2
21 P - KB6, P - BJ	22 B - B6

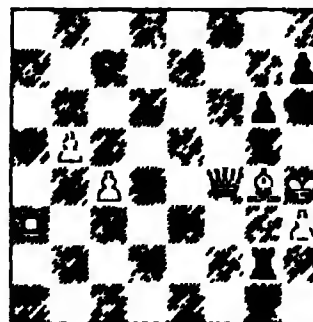
\* English \* main      \* White's? Perhaps bla

```

22 0R - K2      23 R1 x P, S x R
24 B x R1 B - R2.  25 KR R1, R2 - R3
26 B - R5, B QR1, 27 P x P, P x P
28 R2 - K4, R2 x R2, 28 S x R, P - Q4
30 B x R1, R2 x R2 31 B - R3 S - QR1
32 B - R5, B - R1. 33 P - QR4, P - QR4
34 B - R5, K - R2, 35 S x P, S x S
36 B x R, B - K2. 37 K - R1, KR1) - R2
38 P x P - R4. 38 KR(R3) - R5, R - K1
40 P R5, Black ended the time found

```

Competition 8528 Solution next week  
Black



**170W** All Black w/ Quick Dry Grade 2 Heavy.

Solution to #525 (Hansen - Bruck Claesson, Hant  
mgs. 1982-83) (r4rk1/p2ppb6p1/8/2nq1P3  
2N1BPp/PP4NP/4Rk1 - Black to play) Black will  
try to Q4 x K1, K x B e h1 B P x B  
h1 Q4 and White resigned.

Problem No 1182 Solution next week  
W Speckmann (P4 Scheerhals 1955) (B7p3p2/-  
bP6 tp4NR/p2p2P1'P2P4B/O - 7 White men, 7  
black) White to play and mate in four moves.

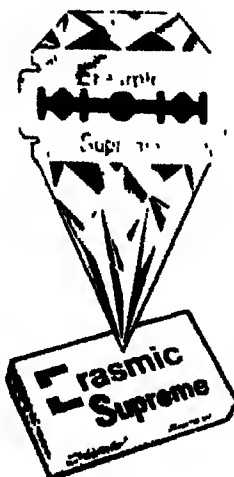
Solution to No 1191 (Baltacchi) (S24p182p2R1;  
1B1h4/8/4K21N2K/R - mate in two) 1 R Kb  
11:rcat / Q Kb 1:da1 P x R 2 B KKR (b)  
B Q 2 Q B1 (c) B Q6 ?  
Q B6 d1 Q x KR(B6); 2 R x B (e)  
a-Q6 2 KxKx1g1 1111 Q B2 R QK(R6)

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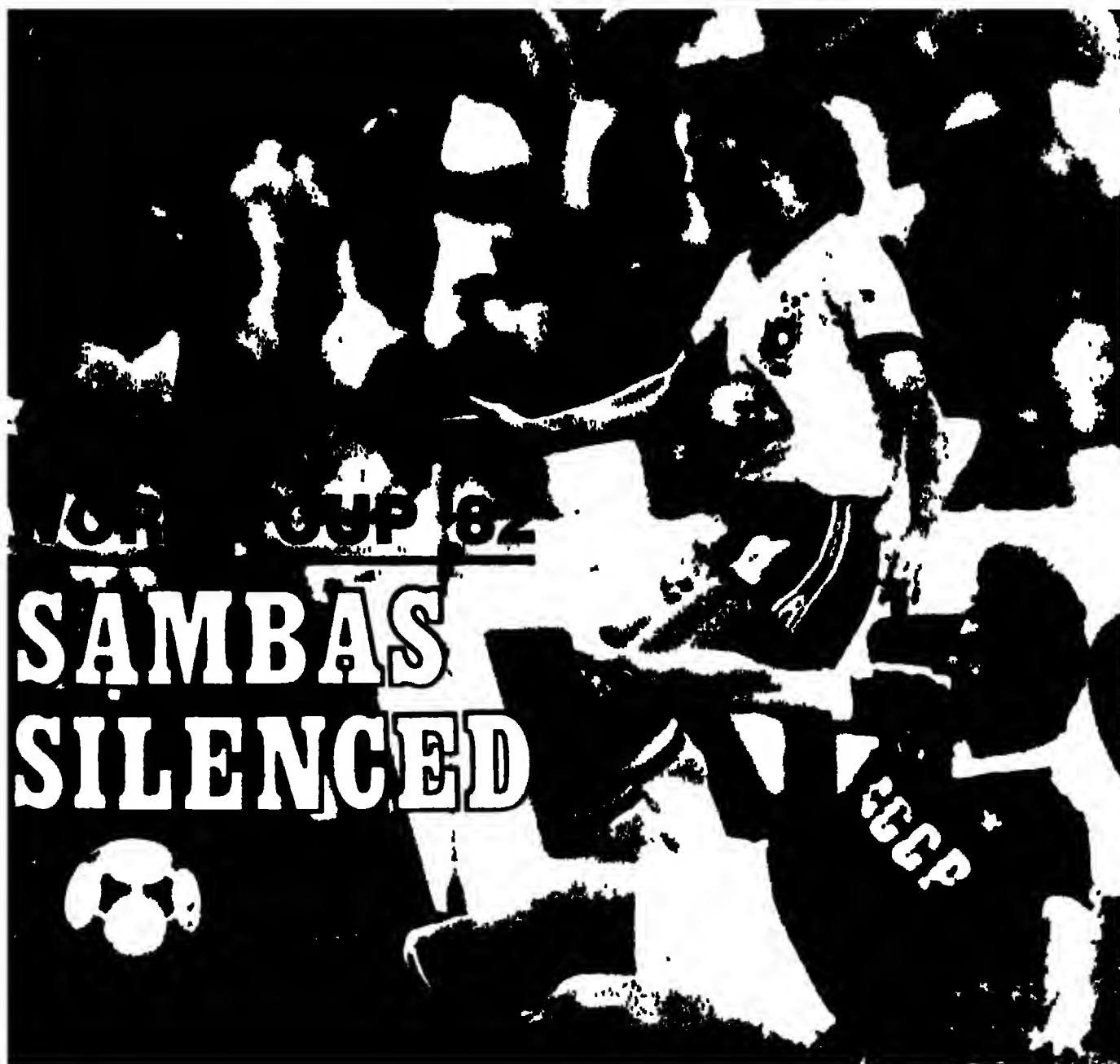
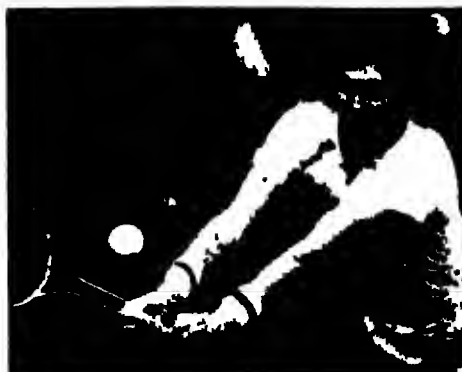
yarn

21 JULY 1982

AN ANANDA BAZAR PUBLICATION Pg 2

# Sportsworld

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COMES  
BACK  
IN STYLE**



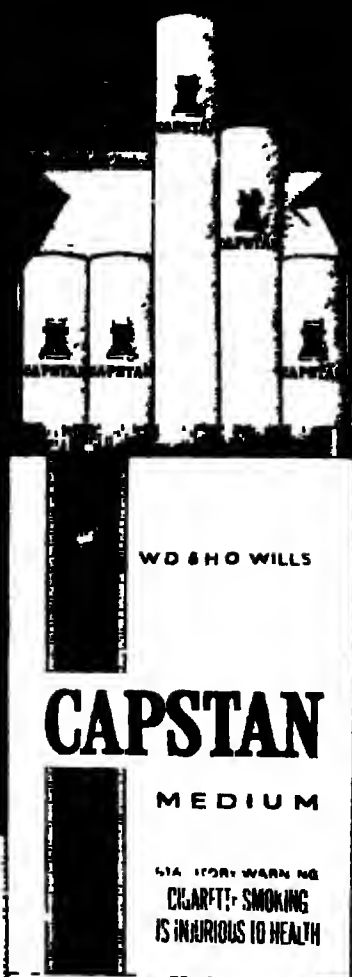
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# Sportsworld 21 JULY 1992

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VOLUME IV ISSUE 39 AN ANANDA BAZAR PUBLICATION Rs 2



### JIMNASTICS AT ITS BEST

In an exclusive article, DAVID IRVINE of *The Guardian* dwells on this year's Wimbledon, on McEnroe's defeat, Connors' return after eight years



### SAMBAS SILENCED

The Brazilians are out. And that is, perhaps, the most sensational piece of news of the World Cup. ARIJIT SEN was on the spot in Spain and writes back to tell how the upset came about

### 31 IT IS ALL IN THE MIND

After his wonderful performances in the Kenyan Safari, SHEKHAR MEHTA has emerged as one of the top-notchers in the world of car rallies. HARESH MUNWANI met him in Bombay to know what life is like on the circuit



### SPECIAL FEATURES

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Cover transparency of World Cup soccer by Colorsport

Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arijit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Senar, Sarjit Deb  
Correspondents Bangalore Hareesh Munwani, Madras Ashok Kamath  
Staff Photographer Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Art Director Bipul Guha  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Right decision

I THINK that Subrata Bhattacharya took the right decision to abstain from playing international soccer. It was apparent during the Federation Cup that Subrata was on the decline. In fact, the star performer was seen fumbling quite too often and was beaten in the air also, a thing that had not happened too often in his heydays. His fitness, too, was in doubt.

One should keep in mind that Subrata is not getting younger. With due respect to this lion-hearted player let me state that his club-mate and Indian defender, Sudip Chatterji, is more sound at present and a more capable left stopper than Subrata.

One thing can be said in favour of Subrata and it is that he was not utilised to the full by the national selectors during his peak days. This is very much evident from the profile of Subrata published in the 23 June issue of your magazine.

As an admirer of the game and of the footballers in the country I naturally feel sorry for Subrata for the treatment meted out to him in the past by the national coaches and selectors. One always remembers him fighting to the last bit to see his side victorious. The accusation one hears about his alleged non-cooperation, therefore, appears too harsh on him.

A K PREMCHAND,  
Calcutta

because he was from the North. Just before he got the post he had assaulted an umpire in the Bombay Gold Cup. If the players from Calcutta can be suspended for throwing their shoes at the umpire why cannot Sodhi be banned for a more heinous crime? This only reflects that K. L. Passi and the Bombay Association have no power for they would have made sure that he was suspended.

The second case to come up against Sodhi was when he refused to leave the field and be replaced against Pakistan in the Champions Cup. Here it was where the Balbir Singhs (junior and senior) showed that they couldn't mean business.

ASHISH TREHAN,  
Bombay

### Give a hand

LET us give a hand to L. D. Bandyopadhyay Barua's achievement of winning the Group B Chess Championship in India. While unlimited money is being spent on sports we would like to see what the newly-formed Government in West Bengal does for him. Let me remind those in power that Russia encourages little children to play chess from a very young age. The communist cabinet led by Mr. Jyoti Basu may not encourage it if it is not written down in Marx's *Das Kapital*. But we hope that deviates from his policy much to the glee of genuine lovers of sport in the state and the country.

PAPI and MITHU,  
Tollygunge

### Sorry state

THE sorry state of affairs concerning sports in our country was revealed by the heart-touching story of the ace long-jumper T. C. Yohannan. The fact that his leg was not cared for by the government and the sports bodies probably cost India a medal at the last Olympics and the coming Asian Games. The only silver lin-

### Sodhi: A failure

IF India can play well without Bhaskaran, Grewal, Kaushik and Surjit Singh, then it can certainly do better without Surinder Singh Sodhi, who has been a failure both as a captain and as a player.

Actually speaking, I M. Mahajan appointed him

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ing in the cloud was at the Teheran Asiad where Yohannan set a record in the long jump event. The step-motherly treatment by the government of the athletes should be condemned by the sporting personalities of the country.

S S HARIHARAN,  
Madurai

## Interesting

IN 'My Most Memorable Moments' of the *Sportsworld* of 12 May, 1982, the experiences of K. T. Pavithran were interesting as he was one of the finest outside lefts who rubbed shoulders with P. K. Banerjee, Kittu, Mewalal and Kannan. Pavithran started his career with the Lucky Star Club of Cannanore, the nursery of many great soccer stars. He later joined Calcutta, who had a good soccer team and unearthed many talented players.

Let me add that Pavithran in his heydays could not find a place in the team to represent the country in the 1956 Olympics. Our team finished fourth in what is now considered as the 'golden era' of Indian soccer. The 'quota system' that is plaguing every sporting discipline prevailed in those days, too, and that prevented the in-form Pavithran from entering the Indian side.

This system of vested interests spoils the careers of many aspiring players. The present Indian cricket team is an excellent example of the whims and fancies of the selectors who have included quite a few cricketers who would struggle to find a place even in a Ranji side. Strange are their ways!

K. V. ANANTHAKRISHNAN,  
Trivandrum

## Best since 1970

I FEEL that the best English side since 1970 was the team that played in the fourth Test of the 1977 series against Australia at Leeds. The team went as follows: Mike Brearley (captain), Geoff Boycott, Bob Woolmer, Derek Randall, Tony Greig, Graham Roope, Alan Knott, Bob Willis, Ian Botham, Derek Underwood and Mike

Hendrick. As it is clearly evident, the team was led by a very able man and was very well-balanced. It is good to see some of the players who played in that Test still playing, such as Botham and Willis. It is also unfortunate to find Boycott, Woolmer, Knott and Underwood being banned for playing in South Africa this year.

R. VIDHYACHARAN,  
Pune

## Misleading

ON the fifth day of the first Test at Lord's the commentators, Raj Singh Dungarpur and Inder Mohan Sahai, offered a comment that the pitch at Lord's was one step ahead of the strip at the Ferozeshah Kotla, thereby implying that the wicket was dead. But let me explain to the contrary. In the Lord's Test six wickets fell on the first day while nine fell on the second day. But on the third in only two hours as many as seven wickets fell while eleven men perished on the fourth. So I cannot understand as to how the respected gentlemen came to such a decision and said that the Delhi wicket was dead.

SUKUMAR BHAT  
TACHARYA,  
Katni

## Incentive

I BELIEVE that athlete Raj Kumar's recent performance in an international competition has received less publicity than it ought to have. After all, it is not everyday that an Indian beats the Chinese, the Japanese and the Russians in a track and field event to win the gold. I feel that he should be given an amount, not less than Rs. 5,000, to give the incentive to do better.

P. NAIR,  
Delhi

## England Kapilled

IT would have been more appropriate to mention on the cover of *Sportsworld* "England Kapilled" rather than one which said that his heroics had been in vain. This is to remind you that your magazine had covered the Jubilee

Test at Bombay with a heading concerning Botham of a very similar nature. In this case, though Kapil did not score a century and India lost the Test Kapil's performance was in no case less than that of Ian Botham.  
**M VENKAT RAMAN,**  
*Jamshedpur.*

## Errors

**W**HILE writing on cricket umpiring (Caught in the act) in the issue of 23 June, 1982, Mr K R Wadhwaney has erred in stating that

1) Don Bradman scored 234 in the Brisbane Test versus England in 1946-47. Actually he scored 187 and in the next Test at Sydney, Syd Barnes and he scored 234 each.

2) John Ikin, who 'caught' Bradman visited India in 1950-51 and 1951-52 with the second Commonwealth team and the England team respectively. The writer had mentioned that Ikin toured in 1949-50 with the first Commonwealth side, which is incorrect.

**T D MUKHERJEE,**  
*Varanasi*

IN your issue dated 16 June, 1982, Sharmila Guha's question was wrongly answered by Sudhir Vaidya. The correct answer to the query whether a batsman, who is caught by a fielder with one leg outside the boundary line is out or not should be 'No' and not 'Yes'.

**M R SINGH,**  
*Bombay*

## My best Indian team

**I**N response to your invitation to readers to compose their best Indian team since 1932, I suggest the following:-

S Gavaskar (captain), V Merchant, V Hazare, G R Vishwanath, P Umrigar (vice-captain), V. Manjrekar, Vinoo Mankad, F M Engineer, Kapil Dev, Ramakant Dasai, B. S Chandrashekhar. Twelfth man, Nawab of Pataudi jr. The team has been listed according to the batting order.

**M. GOUTAM PRAKASH KHARIWAL,**  
*Bangalore.*

## Astonishing

**I**T is astonishing to find that out of the 24 international teams fighting each other for the World Cup soccer title only one should be from Asia. This looks like a clear policy to oust the Asians from this prestigious tournament. And it really is surprising to find that 14 places have gone to countries from Europe while the world's most populated continent can afford to send only one entry—Kuwait.

**TANWEER ALAM,**  
*Gaya*

## Not the greatest

**I**T is about time that people stopped accusing Ivan Lendl of being a chicken for not playing at Wimbledon. There are two reasons for his non-participation. Firstly, Lendl is not a good player on grass so there is no sense in his going to London and being knocked out in the first round just because Wimbledon means tradition does not mean that anyone should play there.

Secondly, a glance at the views of Borg, McEnroe, Tetschar and Gerulaitis will confirm that all is not well with the running of the tournament. Against this background, Lendl's accusation that he is not even allowed to practise on the courts there must be taken into account.

Unless Wimbledon's officials give up their stiff-necked and high-handed attitude this competition could become one only for the second rankers—and that would be a pity.

**DEEPAK GOIL,**  
*Bangalore*

## Final say

**I**F playing in South Africa is banned, then why not arrange a match involving the Springboks in North Africa? That would be a lawfully flawless act!

**PRABAL GUHA,**  
*Balijan North*

## Pulled muscle?



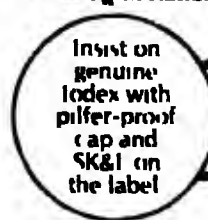
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WIMBLEDON 1982

# Jimbo comes back in style

DAVID IRVINE



**T**HEY do, after all, come back. In the longest men's final ever played at Wimbledon, four hours and 14 minutes, Jimmy Connors unseated the title holder John McEnroe 3-6, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 to win the title back after an eight-year break.

Only one man in the tournament's history has achieved anything like that—Bill Tilden, perhaps, the greatest of all the Americans, recaptured the title after a nine-year break in 1930. For Connors, though, it must have come like a transfusion to his career, for he had not won any of the great events since the US Open in 1978.

Had Connors been a superstitious man, the penultimate point might well have filled him with unease. With three match points before him he went for a big serve on his second delivery and double faulted for the 13th time. It might have unnerved some men, but not this strapping, confident 29-year-old. His next ball exploded on a puff of powder as the ball caught the line and McEnroe was gone.

Those expecting some fireworks with which to celebrate America's Independence Day were disappointed. Much of the match resembled a succession of damp squibs as both players, oddly, seemed to close to becoming consumed by the occasion. McEnroe's game, like his personality, is always perched on a knife's edge, but he can rarely have played such an indecisive title match.

One could sense from the start that his reservations about his serve had not gone. He had immediate trouble with his toss and, on and off, it bothered him throughout the match. He did finish with 19 aces to his credit, and yet he was only three behind Connors on the double-fault count.

As old adversaries—it was the 19th meeting—McEnroe had some scores to settle. Connors had beaten him in the Wembley Indoor final in November and again to take the Queen's Club title last month—and he was determined that the 1974 champion should not annexe his Wimbledon territory.

It seemed he would prove successful when the first set fell to McEnroe in 42 minutes after Connors, 3-1 ahead, lost the next five games and showed his anxiety in a sequence of netted forehands. The shot that, perhaps most of all, had contributed to his decline in recent years.

Again, in the second, Connors made the early move. McEnroe was rather casual, chopping a volley into the net to go love 2 down, but then broke back only to lose his serve again to a now more determined Connors in the fourth. The tennis remained riddled with error, Connors proving slightly less careless than the anguished McEnroe, whose verbal flagellation was often as ex-



citable as Max Robertson's wireless commentary

Connors held on to level in the second set and should have had the third when he served for it at 5-4 and 30-all, only to produce consecutive double faults. McEnroe celebrated his escape by winning the tie-break 7-2 and, at that stage, looked like moving forward to a successful defence of the title—something no American had done since Don Budge in the Thirties.

That spate of double faults in the third set said Connors afterwards, "almost cost me the match." He thought that the key to his victory was the fact that he controlled and won the fourth set, after that experience. "Against McEnroe you just have to stay in there on every point," he said. "Neither one of us was going to roll over and die. It was kill or be killed. That's why we have such great matches."

The only time he seriously considered that victory was complete was when McEnroe failed to return his final serve. And that probably has summed it up. Asked where this performance stood against other highlights of his career, Connors, typically, declined to answer specifically. But he was conscious of the fact that only one other player had bridged such an enormous gap in winning two titles.

"I did in 1974, and once you do it that's fine and dandy—if you want to be a one timer. I'm no one-timer. I have had three chances since then and they slipped me by. I had another chance this time and I was going to do anything to not let it slip again even if it meant a fight to the death."

Connors is nothing if not a fighter. Though much of the tennis was like the weather, rather dull with a few bright intervals, Connors managed to galvanise his game in the second tie-break. Despite two intimidating service aces from McEnroe, he forced set point with a fierce return and sunk home a service winner to level the match after three hours and 29 minutes.

That was the moment Connors had been waiting for, the arrival of a situation he had neither known nor savoured for four years. He punched the air in exaltation, just as he did in the old days, and McEnroe seemed almost to shrink at the opposite end of the court. The crowd were largely united behind the older man and he was not going to let his supporters down.

The tension overtook tedium and, from an atmosphere of almost embarrassed silence, the Centre Court gave vent to its feelings. Every point was greeted with applause if it was in Connors' favour and McEnroe, looking tired after his concerted exertion in singles and doubles, faced an uphill if not impossible task. The crucial break came quick-

ly, in the third game McEnroe double-faulted, hit a low volley out, missed a daring top volley and was then left helpless as Connors punched a backhand return for the crucial winner.

Connors was never again tested on his own serve. McEnroe responded with some dazzlingly played points but with the scent of victory all round him, Connors was not to be denied. His final serve had a superb irony about it, for until this year he had always considered his serve the weakest part of his game and his wicked returns his strongest.

Thus the left's domination of Wimbledon was complete—not since 1969 had two left-handers won both the men's and women's singles.



Women's singles champion Martina Navratilova

**M**ARTINA NAVRATILOVA now stands on the brink of the first grand slam since Margaret Court's in 1970. Once again, she emerged as Chris Lloyd's nemesis in the women's singles final when, after a brief passage of self-doubt when she saw victory slipping away, she recovered brilliantly to win 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 and take the title for the third time in five years.

As the holder of the Australian and French Opens, she is now poised to match the stunning achievements of Margaret Court and Mo Connolly, the only other player to win all four legs in 1953. To do so she must win the US Open in September. "Somebody is going to have to play a hell of

a match to beat me," she warned.

On her form and consistency this year—already she has won one million dollars and lost only once in 55 matches—her confidence is supremely well-placed. Nor is she lacking in incentive. Apart from the Grand Slam she stands to win another 500,000 dollars in the Playtex Challenge, a test put up by an American company to anyone who could win four specified championships on four different surfaces.

It was the third time Miss Navratilova and Mrs Lloyd had met in a Centre Court final and there was no change in the pattern. Indeed it seemed at one stage as though Miss Navratilova would record one of the fastest victories, for she captured the first set in only 22 minutes and was immediately a break up in the second.

Having played well below par at the start, conceding free points with a host of unforced forehand errors, Mrs Lloyd suddenly put her game together. At 3-2 to Miss Navratilova she was attacked by a wasp and this, it seemed, broke the number one seed's concentration.

Quite suddenly Mrs Lloyd's passing shots began to sing. Miss Navratilova's concentration and confidence were clearly affected and, when she put a smash in the net off a lob, Mrs Lloyd recovered to three all and went on to take the second set at a cost of only three further points.

"It's always hard when you are the favourite and are winning," said Miss Navratilova. "And all of a sudden you see the match slipping away. I was thinking, Oh God, here it comes." I could just see it—Evert upsets Navratilova—because it would have been an upset.

But there were no signs of panic that once affected her. Though Mrs Lloyd did lead 2-1 in the second, Miss Navratilova decided to go on the offensive, charged the net and began to smash away her backhand volleys with the same precision and force with which she had dominated in the early stages.

She mixed up her game too confusingly for Mrs Lloyd, who was surprised by her use of the drop shot, and at 40-30 in the sixth game, needing just one point for three-all, Mrs Lloyd stabbed a feeble forehand into the net.

That, in effect, was that. A low forehand volley off a smash gave Miss Navratilova break point and, on the next, she hammered a backhand down the line which Mrs Lloyd was unable to control. From 15-30 in the seventh the new champion won seven consecutive points.

"In the end it was so easy," she said. "It was amazing, that last game I wasn't even nervous." It was a triumph well deserved, a point which even Mrs Lloyd was prepared to concede. She felt she became too tentative when ahead in the final set. (Courtesy THE GUARDIAN)

## **WORLD CUP '82**

# **Sambas silenced**

**Noble efforts in vain. The Brazilians started their campaign on an aggressive note and no hurdle seemed insuperable to them when they trounced their neighbours Argentina almost hands down. But Italy stood in their way and Latin American soccer was banished from the tournament, as a result.**

**ARIJIT SEN narrates the drama from Spain**

**I**F ever a World Cup had surprises in store, it was the 12th in Spain. From the very beginning, one found a sensation lurking in the most innocent of encounters. Starting with the humiliation of Argentina by Belgium and continuing with Algeria's demolition of the mighty Germans, the World Cup competition offered the spectacle of the seemingly unbeatable—and certainly unflappable—Brazilians and the workmanlike English being nosed out of the championship, hard on the heels of the ignominious exit of Argentina.

A month ago, only the avid punter would have forecast a semi-final line-up of Poland versus Italy and West Germany versus France. But it was just that—an all-European line-up at both Barcelona and Seville—defying both seedings and logic. What's

more—apart from the still-unbelievable Italian triumph over Brazil—they all deserved their places in the elite brigade.

Hindsight provides the answer to this strange occurrence. The abysmal form of the semi-finalists can be attributed to several factors, primary of which was the none too early peaking of the other teams.

For most of the teams now in the last four it was a fortuitous climb to the second phase. There was, for example, the sight of Italy aggregating the same points as Cameroon. They got through only because they had scored two goals, conceding two, while Cameroon managed a goal each on the debit and credit side. West Germany came up the same way though they had a better scoring balance sheet. What is ironic about

this competition is that Poland and Italy had already met in the first phase. Neither team scored in that encounter, but in the semis in Barcelona, there could be a different result. Unlike the rule for the final, there is to be no replay, penalties deciding the issue.

Unfortunately for Brazil, they seemed to have peaked too early in the World Cup. They won all their matches, scored as many as ten goals and conceded only two. West Germany were another side which came up with an uneven performance, losing to Algeria in the first phase and getting through the second only because England could not score twice against Spain. Poland and Italy, however, have scaled new heights with each appearance in the second phase, the former beating Belgium



*Socrates leads the Brazilian Goose Step. Others in the picture are (from right) Renato, Oscar, Toninho Cerezo, Lusinho and Roberto Dynamita.*



and bottling up USSR and the latter sweeping past the two best South American outfits, Argentina and Brazil

## BRAZIL vs ITALY

**I**TALY rose from the ashes of Mussolini's debris to puncture the pride and demolish the delicate artistry of Brazil on a warm summer afternoon in Barcelona to reach the semi-final of an extremely topsy-turvy twelfth World Cup. It was a match many veterans felt should rank among the best this illustrious competition has seen in 52 years. The brilliance of individuals—led by a hat-trick blasting Paulo Rossi—coupled with fantastic tactical moves made it a memorable match. In fact, it bordered on fantasy, as the pendulum swung crazily from one side to the other.

The Italians did not prove that they were the better side. Far from it. Brazil still retained the charm of individualistic play that is rarely seen anywhere else in the world. But their tremendous hard work, coupled with great opportunism, earned them a victory that should surely rank among their greatest. And that includes the two Cup victories, one against Czechoslovakia in 1934 and Hungary in 1938.

For Brazil, Cerezo's monetary lapse in the first half proved fatal.

But it also showed up the brittleness of the Brazilian goal and the fact that Waldir Peres is not the best of all goalkeepers. In the end, it was their own failure to convert chances that proved to be their undoing. But this year's World Cup will ever be remembered as Brazil's for the taking. They had the best set of players, but somehow, they lost their way to the goal.

The first half produced an electric atmosphere. The Italians, known the world over for their ultra-defensive ploys, were expected to wall up and then hope for a sudden counter-attack to produce the one goal they needed to reach the semi-finals. But the Italians needed none of that.

Even as the game commenced, Italy energetically probed the Brazilian defence and in the fifth minute, found a path past Waldir Peres. In a brilliant manoeuvre, the ball was floated from the right to Cabrini on the left. He floated the ball past the entire defence in the penalty area to an onrushing Paulo Rossi, who headed in smoothly.

It took the Brazilians some time to settle down, but once they did, they got into the smooth rhythm that so characterised their play. Sociates got the ball in his own penalty area and sent a forward pass for Zico. He did not stop running, however, and took a return forward pass just outside the opposition penalty area. He

dodged two defenders, waited for Dino Zoff to lean to the right and then placed to his left.

But the Italians came back with a goal in the 25th minute. It was a faulty clearance by Cerezo which found Rossi in possession just outside the box. He went into an unguarded penalty area to send a stiff volley ballooning into the net (2-1).

Zico found Falcao shortly after, but his angular shot just missed the near post. In the very next minute, however, Bruno Conti ran about 80 yards, outpacing the Brazilians who had all come forward to help in the attack, but his energy sapped in the heat and all he could do was to push the ball towards the goalkeeper. In a good move through the middle, the Brazilians went up and Cerezo got the ball at the edge of the penalty area. But veteran Zoff saw the move and was at the edge of the box himself in a flash to parry the ground-er that Cerezo had already unleashed. While Graziani split the defence at the other end, he could not direct the ball to the goal. Just before the interval, a stinging freekick by Eder was saved on the line by Zoff.

The Italians continued to have a fair share of the exchanges in the second half, but it was the Brazilians who struck in the 69th minute. Zico got the ball to an unmarked Falcao on the right. The latter side-stepped



Argentina's Américo Gallego (8) sandwiched between (from left) Italians Orsi, Paolo Rossi and Gastano



Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of West Germany (left) and Mick Mills of England fighting for the ball. The match ended goalless.

the defence and beat Zoff with a gem of a shot (2-2).

The Brazilians made the fatal mistake of resting on their oars and the Italians were quick to seize the opportunity of surging ahead once again. The Brazilians left wide gaps in midfield, particularly on their right flank. Line and again there were counter attacks, any of which could have proved the undoing of the South Americans.

But the danger did not come from there, despite narrow escapes. Ultimately, it was a corner taken by the Italians in the 75th minute that spelt the Brazilians' doom. The ball went to Tardelli at the edge of the box. He volleyed the ball towards the goal. But even as Peres positioned himself for it, the irrepressible Rossi swerved his body and the ball to the right, without letting it touch the ground. It beat Peres all the way (3-2).

There was still time left, but some of the Brazilian edge already seemed to have gone. They did mount a massive offensive, pressing 10 men into attack, but first Falcão, then Socrates and Zico and Eder kept trying to beat Zoff, but to no avail. Eder's freekick was the closest on target, but that stinging shot was held by Zoff, although it came perilously close to the goal-line.

## ENGLAND vs SPAIN

ENGLAND faltered on the brink of greater glory, allowing an out-of-form West Germany to coast into the semi-finals of the 12th World Cup. This was all because there was

no one in the England squad who could score a goal against Spain, the hosts and perhaps the worst team in the second phase of the competition. As things turned out, Spain put in the best performance they were capable of in this last match of the second phase of the competition.

The Bernabeu is capable of holding 90,800 people. There weren't many empty spaces in the terraces as the two teams took the field. The match was extremely important for England, because West Germany after holding England, had beaten Spain 2-1. Naturally, England had to win by two clear goals to enter the semi. For Spain, there was the tension of an unhappy football exercise, which began with a hard earned, referee-aided 1-1 draw with unpretentious Honduras and continued through one victory and one defeat before the second-stage encounter with Germany. They badly needed to salvage some of their honour in home ground conditions.

But, apart from the mathematical interest, there was nothing of note in this encounter. That is, apart from the spectacle of Spain missing more and easier chances of scoring than England.

If Spain had had a good striker, there is no knowing what the ultimate result would have been. They would then not have had to watch helplessly as Alonso missed a hat-trick of sitters. These, added to the four other easy chances that Satrustegui and Santiana missed, sums up the number of scoring opportunities that came Spain's way each time they counter-attacked. In contrast, England had four possibilities, but

each time, they either shot or headed wide, or put the ball in the path of the bundle of nerves that Spanish captain Arcanada was. He was so shaky, he even fisted away a curving corner that was literally floating towards him.

But, England—who looked dangerous only after Trevor Brooking and Kevin Keegan got up from the substitutes' bench—did not take their chances and also did not capitalise on the goalkeeper's nervousness by taking many more shots from outside the box. This last match will certainly not be remembered by anyone other than the players involved and the odd historian. Although it was not as dreary a draw as those played out by Italy in the early stages of the competition and the more recent England-West Germany encounter, this match did not produce thrills other than the negative ones of missed chances. But the Spanish supporters went home happy. At least they went out of the competition with head held straight, if not exactly high.

## USSR vs POLAND

IN Group A, Belgium had come a cropper against both Poland and the Soviet Union and so it was left to these two to decide which one would go through to the semi-finals. The USSR had come with a great reputation. They had not lost a match other than the one against Brazil in 27 outings, an enviable record that the Poles could certainly not match.

But the red-shirt brigade from Warsaw had beaten Belgium through

Boniek's hat-trick and so had only to hold USSR to a draw to qualify. The USSR had scored only once. This encounter, therefore, was to be a do-or-die attempt for the Soviets.

The Poles, however, had a different score to settle. The match naturally took on political overtones, which was evident when the niggling by players drew angry gestures from their opponents and, invariably, the player telled refused the hand of his adversary when offered to help him to his feet. Of more advantage to the Poles was the backing of the Polish supporters in the stands and thousands of Spaniards, who were firmly against anything the USSR players did. Huge banners of the now banned Solidarity Union were displayed on the terraces by the Poles who had not already defected to the West. Of the 500 allowed to travel to Spain, 200 had left their coaches even before they arrived in Spain. Another 400 are intending to stay on in Spain after the World Cup.

But all these thoughts were not on the minds of the players of either team as they assembled for the final encounter. But it was evident that politics weighed heavily on their minds as the game developed into a cat and mouse affair, the teams changing roles often but never getting out of the maze of their own making. And although there was no open conflict, hard tackles seemed the order of the day, resulting in the hooking of four Soviets and one Polish player. They were sweeper Chivadse, Gaborilov, Borovsky and Baltacha. The Pole, unfortunately for that team, was Zhiagniew Boniek, captain and star player. This was the second time in the championship that he was shown the yellow card, which as it turned out, meant he would miss Poland's semi-final against either Brazil or Italy.

Referee Bob Valentine of Scotland however kept a strict watch on the proceedings, which may be one reason why the game did not develop into a full scale war. But the USSR were quick to make their intentions clear. In the second minute itself, Boniek was brought down heavily just outside the box as he and Lato were busily one twoing towards the Soviet goal. Lato, too, came in for some rough treatment in the early stages which may have forced the Poles into a more defensive role.

After the initial probes of the Poles, the USSR midfielders got the ball going. They came closest to scoring in the 25th minute when Onagesian dodged two Polish defenders near the left flank before sending a rather stiff cross into the penalty area. Even as the out of form Shegelia reached himself to head Sulakvashvile raced in to connect powerfully. Unfortunately for him the ball rocketed into play with the goalkeeper totally beaten. In the 34th minute, Andriey Bunol raced

down, taking two defenders with him and laid an easy cross on the path of Greagoriz Lato, the balding veteran of 1974. But the latter missed the line of the ball, thus wasting a guilt-edged opportunity. These were the only two positive chances in the first half, which saw Chivadse and Boniek get the yellow card for rough tackles.

Andriev replaced Shegelia, who had taken several knocks, early in the second half. This did not improve matters as Blokhin, the only other Soviet threat, was kept bottled up by Zmuda especially and Dzuha, both of whom were careful not to allow him shoot with his lethal left foot. The Poles ventured into Soviet territory in the initial stages and came close to scoring twice. On both occasions, however, Rinat Dassaev the tall and confident Soviet keeper, was on hand. First, he collected a Waldemar Matysik drive and then, in the very next minute, Boniek's angular but low and stiff shot, in the second attempt.

With 15 minutes remaining, the Poles shut their doors to all Soviet advances, indulging in time wastage devices like keeping the ball in control at the edge of the line, inviting Soviet tackles that would get the ball over the goal or touchline, which would mean the passing of a few more seconds.

## France vs Northern Ireland

France took their appointed place in the semi-finals of the twelfth World Cup, dashing the hopes and dreams of a fairy-tale for Northern Ireland. Producing a superb performance—the best they have in Spain so far—France rattled and shook the Irish violently, winning 4-1 and looking good for more.

In a dazzling display of midfield control and fast approach work towards goal, the French outplayed the Irish in every department of the game—especially in midfield, where Giresse was outstanding. Apart from scoring twice, he appeared to be always on hand to start a startling move up front. In this, he was helped by Tigana. And Platini did his bit, especially in the first half, in gearing the attack towards the opposition goal. France, thus, won both their matches convincingly and now await the winners of Group B, involving Lugland and West Germany.

An interesting aspect of the score was that every time France beat Northern Ireland, they had scored four goals. Back in 1958, they had ousted the Irish by that margin from the quarter-finals of the World Cup and in March this year, they again scored four goals without reply in a friendly encounter. One can only say that Ireland took one step forward by scoring a goal.

The first half saw France begin in whirlwind fashion, moving up quickly and sharply. They succeeded in

upsetting the rather slow Irish defence. This proved an effective ploy as the Ireland players found it difficult to counter-attack after long spells deep in their own area. A measure of French supremacy in midfield can be gauged from the fact that all the Irish players, bar none, were busy defending, mostly in their own penalty area.

After the initial torays failed to produce goals, the French came close to scoring in the 24th minute. Following Giresse's free kick, Rocheteau took a shot which was partially saved by Jimmy Nichols. The ball came to Platini, who swerved before taking a crack, which was pushed by Pat Jennings and eventually cleared by the defenders. Two minutes later, Martin O'Neill scored, but he was clearly off side, so Northern Ireland's moment of glory was denied them. In the 32nd minute, Soler tord the ball out after Rocheteau had centred.

Two minutes later, France came up with their first goal. Platini, who raced to the goal line in the penalty area and took three defenders with him, suddenly cut the ball back at an acute angle. Giresse was standing unmarked on the edge of the goal area. He sent a stiff grounder which was clearly beyond the reach of custodian Jennings (1-0).

The French started the second session where they had left off in the first and in the very second minute, surged ahead. It was a high pass from Tigana that started the progress. Rocheteau, still in his own half, chested the ball down and simultaneously swivelled on his feet to beat one Irishman. From there, he raced a good 50 yards, eluding two defenders before taking a low shot on the run. He was racing down the left flank, but Jennings did not cover the near post. It was from this narrow angle between the post and goal keeper that the ball entered the net (2-0).

After Tresor of France and Hamilton of Northern Ireland were booked—one for dissent and the other for a bad tackle—Soler was replaced by Didier Six. Rocheteau, who had seen a header miss the target by less than a foot, was always looking dangerous. In the 68th minute, a free kick found Rocheteau in possession at the edge of the box. He feinted and lost two defenders before taking a left footer and finding the same gap that produced the earlier goal (3-0).

Just when all seemed lost, Northern Ireland pulled one back. Whiteside won the ball and kept it in the corridor between the penalty area and the touchline before crossing into the penalty area where Armstrong shot in (3-1).

But any dreams of a comeback were dashed in the 35th minute when Tigana crossed to Giresse and the latter nodded home his second goal of the tournament (4-1).

## SPAIN VS WEST GERMANY

ONE of the most disappointing aspects of this tournament had been the obvious lack of class of the hosts and the almost total absence of inspiration on the part of the vaunted Germans. Despite all the canisters, drums, whistles and flags, the Spaniards showed from the start that they were not world class by any stretch of imagination. They did have a few players who could be rated good by European standards—Alesanto, Juanito, Zamora and Quini—but they flopped as a team, with virtually no understanding among the players and a dreadful lack of finish. The Germans, on the other hand, proved the dampest squib of the tournament. Perhaps, it was the Algeria debacle in their opening match, but from the start they seemed to be in morbid fear of conceding goals. This stunted the style of players of the calibre of main striker Rummenigge and the fast and tricky winger Littbarski. They did manage to erect an almost impenetrable defence, but the lack of effort and desire to move up was clear from the start of every match. The only time they ever scored more than one goal in this tournament was against Chile (4-1) in a Group Two match.

As in their utterly uninspiring encounter with England, the Germans started out very tentatively against Spain. Starting out with the psychological advantage of playing a team which had already dropped a point, the Spaniards began strongly and, for the first time in the tournament, looked as if they had come to win. The game soon developed into an open encounter with both sides willing to come out of their defensive cocoons. It was entertaining football, due also to the fact that the Spaniards did not resort to the elbowing and kicking tactics that had earned them a bad name.

Gradually, it became apparent that the Germans were technically the better side. Littbarski led most of the attacks, as it became apparent that Rummenigge was still nursing his hamstring injury. He was replaced after halftime by Reinders. Four minutes into the second session, West Germany surged ahead. Dremmler took a rasping shot, but Arconada let it fall off his hands. Littbarski swooped in to score.

The Spaniards naturally went up in search of the equaliser, and left wide gaps in midfield. It was through one of these that Breitner sent the ball and Littbarski pounced on it. Even as the Spanish captain and goalkeeper Arconada—who had a bad tournament, with several, sometimes elementary mistakes—advanced to narrow the angle, Littbarski passed to an unmarked Fischer who placed the ball into an empty goal.

That was in the 75th minute. But

even as the Spanish flags were being folded up in the stadium, Sanchez—who replaced Quini—sent a long floater which Zamora headed home with aplomb. But this proved the only talking point for the Spaniards, apart from a minor row that ensued after the goal, resulting in the booking of Sanchez, Camacho and the German Briegel.

## USSR VS BELGIUM

The Soviet Union did not earn many friends in Spain. They came with a lot of fanfare, supposed specialists giving them good odds to win the World Cup. They had a set of players, particularly in sweeper Chivadze, midfielders Bessanov and the new discovery Bal, along with the fleet-footed Footballer of the Year, vintage '75, Blokhin.

They began well, too. Had it not been for a timid and slow referee, they might even have beaten Brazil as two penalties were denied them. Even the 12 scoresheet did them proud. But, thereafter, things did not run smooth. They edged past Scotland—who held them to a 2-2 draw—on a mere goal difference and did not play well enough in a single match. In fact, they looked a disjointed side as they took the field against a disjointed Belgian side. This is not to suggest that their approach up to midfield was anything but well organised and planned, but there seemed a gulf of difference between the thinkings of the players involved with the ball. Every attack would invariably end in a misspass or a well directed shot at the goal. There also seemed a peculiar penchant for individual play. Although the Belgian defence was not too strong, especially with goalkeeper Custers being replaced by Munaron, the Soviet players rarely posed a threat. Except, that is, in the 48th minute of play. On one of the few occasions when the USSR moved smoothly through the length of the field, Gavrilov raced down the line before floating a cross to Oganesyan, who was standing unmarked in the penalty area. The latter made no mistake.

The Belgians, who had all along been playing with apparent unconcern, tried to put in more effort. But their marksmanship did not improve. If they had taken chances—they had done so readily earlier in the tournament—the Belgians could certainly have kept themselves in the reckoning for a semi-final berth. But Vandermissem and especially Vandenberg, missed four gilt-edged chances (if scoring, the efforts of Coeck (pronounced Cook) in feeding them, going to waste. In the early stages of the match, Vandenberg failed to push the ball past Dasaev from three yards.

Thus, the Belgians, who startled the World Cup holders, Argentina, in the opening match of the cham-

pionship in Spain—at the same venue—faded out. They did have some imaginative players, but they lacked finish and, above all, the will to win. The only lasting memory of them will, perhaps, be the fact that two unlikely-looking brothers played for them—the bearded defender L. Millecamps and his shy brother, M. Millecamps.

## NORTHERN IRELAND VS AUSTRIA

The fact that Northern Ireland had made it to the Second Round was a wonder. They did not have any internationally known players nor did they represent an affluent footballing set-up. Most of the players were young and inexperienced in terms of international football and some were assisting English Third Division sides before downing the by-now popular green colours. When they took the field against Austria, however, they had had the distinction of beating Spain and heading Group Five, which also featured Yugoslavia and Honduras. Austria, on the other hand, had already been beaten by France 1-0 in the second round and, therefore, had to go flat out to beat the Irish and then hope that France lost to the minnows.

But Northern Ireland continued in their indomitable fashion, adding a dash of skill to the huge unconquerable spirit that so characterised their performance from the time they started the preliminaries. They shot into the lead in the first half, saw themselves a goal down midway through the second and then equalised and finished the stronger team.

The game began with the Irish, playing to a 4-5-1 combination with Hamilton the lone man up front, getting involved in staccato exchanges with the Austrians mainly in midfield as both teams sparred to test each other's strengths and weaknesses. Then, in the 28th minute, McIlroy set up Gerry Armstrong on the right and the latter raced towards the goal line, from where he despatched a measured cross to Hamilton, beating stopper back Plezzy in the air. Hamilton was on hand to nod in, past goalkeeper Koncilia.

However, the Austrians seemed to have emerged from their dressing room after lemon time with new resolve. And there was nothing Pat Jennings' replacement for this match, Jim Platt, could have done in goal to prevent Plezzy edging the ball in to restore parity. This came five minutes after resumption and followed a faulty clearance by Chris Nicholl, which had ace Austrian forward, Schachner, finding the far post. Nicholl cleared from the line and the resultant corner paved the way for the goal.

Platt, making his first appearance after 37-year-old Jennings had a



# Sidelights

## WORLD CUP

### Not like Spain

ONE lesson had been learnt quickly. The Colombian football authorities had already decided that they would not spread the 13th World Cup competition as wide and thin as Spain. Seventeen stadia have been pressed into service, stretching through 14 cities. Naturally, there have been organisational as well as playing problems. Although the President of the Colombian Football Federation, Mr Alfonso Senior Queveilo did not specify the number of cities he proposed to use as sites for the 1986 competition, it is likely that, apart from Bogota, Armenia, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cali, Medellin and Pereira would be chosen. The President also set at rest rumours that neighbouring countries may be approached by Colombia to help stage the competition.

### More than the printed price

TRAVEL agents all over the world have had a share in the Spanish spoils. Or so it seemed at the outset. But, as the competition warmed up, it became clear that all was not well on the Spanish front. There seemed to be a massive black market operating across the country. And unless the authorities were the misers not in on it, how was it possible that the tour operators found that seats in stadia were not in tune with the grade of hotels booked? Cheap seats were given to most tourists who came on 'package tours', while the seats actually meant for

them went into the hands of people demanding a lot more than the printed price. In fact some tour operators were threatening to sue the Organising Committee for an estimated 150 million dollars, if the blackmarketing continued.

### The offers and prices

EVEN as several players were lining up to join new clubs in new countries after the end of the Spanish extravaganza, managers were being sized up by leading European clubs. The first on the list was Billy Bingham, the wonderman of Northern Ireland. He had reportedly been approached by three European clubs. Bingham took over the reins of the team two and a half years ago and his successes included the British Championship. But he had not yet been given a written contract for Northern Ireland. He was naturally peeved and the offers from abroad as well as the

interest now being shown by English first division sides were tempting. Bingham had a stint with the Greek national team and a leading Athens club. "I don't want any of that any more," he said. Which meant he would stay with the lads who performed so well in Spain. But not so Cesar Menotti, whose hour of glory in Spain is now a mere dream. He will naturally feel the wrath of his countrymen after returning to Buenos Aires, but he will go with a firm offer—about 120,000 dollars a year—from the Spanish club Valencia. Should things get really hot at home, he will naturally trek back to Spain.

### We are not crooks

THE first phase of the championship saw several souvenirs being sold at the 17 centres. But a more intelligent device was hit on by a newspaper in Vigo. The local daily published a four-page supplement devoted to the Italians who came to

watch their team. These five thousand or so fans brought in great profit, according to the proprietors. But the Italian players—and their officials—have stopped talking to the Press. The players clamped shut after reports that players were getting astronomical cash rewards for reaching the second round. It was alleged that the players received over 50,000 dollars, but veteran goalkeeper Dino Zoff snuffed it out, saying "We are not crooks."

### Ron's blunder

ENGLAND manager Ron Greenwood blundered badly when he pleaded with the FIFA Secretary Ted Cocker to ask FIFA whether England would go through to the semi-finals if they beat Spain 2-1, the same margin as West Germany. The argument was that, in the first phase, England had three wins and a better goal difference. Obviously, the rules were either not read or understood. FIFA clearly stated that if the goal difference position was identical in the second phase and if both teams had headed their respective groups in the first round, the semi-finalist would be chosen by the drawing of lots. The question had been answered even before it was placed. But Greenwood was on safer ground when he pointed out that he did not say that he disliked taking genuine wingers in his team because, allegedly, they only knew how to attack and once the ball went into their own half, they passed their time picking their noses.

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groin injury, fell again in the 68th minute when Plezzy pushed a free kick to Hintetmaier, who shot in through a host of Irish legs. The Austrians, who had not fielded crack shooter, Hans Krankl, and replaced the highly rated Hagmyr with Welzl along with midfielder Hintermaier, seemed coasting to a face-saving victory.

But, in the 75th minute, an Armstrong shot deflected off a defender to Jimmy Nicholl who floated the ball to an unguarded Hamilton for the new hero to nod in his second goal, a helpless Konecna standing too far out to do anything.

The Irish, thus, put out the Austrians who had begun with a bang when they beat Chile and Algeria in Group Two. But there were no tears shed for the Austrians, who in no stage really looked dangerous. Then players came with big reputations but they had little to show. In fact one could have accused them of anything except putting in a concerted effort to win.

## ENGLAND vs WEST GERMANY

If there is no individual brilliance, there is no joy in watching football. This is a home truth and it came through most forcefully in the England-West Germany encounter. Both teams could claim that the 90 plus temperature sapped energy, but that was not enough excuse for the unimaginative display by England and the European champions, West Germany. They figured in more than a 0-0 draw. They showed up what European football really was—well organised but chess-like play. It was not football merely a display of defence set-ups.

The only notable features of this match were the two opportunities—yes two in 90 minutes that presented themselves. First, it was Brian Robson, whose header was fisted over in a late backward dive by Schumacher, the German custodian and the other, a very late inside dodge by Karl Heinz Rummenigge of Germany and a sharp shot that beat the England goalkeeper Shilton, but hit the crosspiece and rebounded into play. This was three minutes before the end and had it proved a goal, it would have meant injustice to England who were not in the same class as Germany, but were better organised and had seen much more of the ball.

## ARGENTINA vs BRAZIL

**STRIKING** a rhythm that made football seem a variation of the Samba, the Brazilians took a firm step towards the World Cup semi-final at Barcelona, with a convincing 3-1 win over world champions Argen-

tina. The latter are out of the World Cup. It was made a more disgraceful exit by the sending off of Maradona in the last stages of the match. The Brazilians, who led 1-0 at half time, scored through Zico, Serrinho and Junor. The margin was reduced by Ramon Diaz, who came in place of an out of form Mario Kempes.

The secret of the Brazilian success was their control of the midfield and some brilliant individual performances by Zico, Junor, Leandro Oscar and above all Falcão, who had his best outing in the tournament so far. Now the Brazilians meet Italy who had beaten Argentina earlier on Monday next.

The first session saw a tentative start to what was understandably a very tense and crucial encounter. It was the Argentines who took the initiative first and they earned a corner and a free kick but both proved abortive. The Brazilians with Leandro playing very well kept a tight leash on Maradona and with Kempes just a shadow of his 1978 self, the world champions did not trouble them too much.

Then in the 12th minute a ball was floated to central attacker Serrinho but the latter was felled by Passarella. The resultant free kick from about 25 yards was taken by Eder. The bullet-like shot was partially saved by goalkeeper Lillo but both Zico and Serrinho rushed in and Zico pushed in to score 1-0. But it appeared that both the Brazilians had rushed in before the free kick was taken, which made them both offside. But Mexican referee Mario Rubio did not see it nor did the linesman wave his flag.

Argentina earned a free kick and as Passarella came to head it down he was pushed from behind by Oscar. When he demanded a penalty, the referee showed him the yellow card. This was incidentally the seventh time an Argentine was booked. But in the very next minute Falcão chested down a pass in the penalty area but then swerved and missed a sitter. Four minutes later Zico also missed an easy chance when Falcão passed to him. In the 11st minute a good one two by Falcão and Socrates saw the former send in a bullet but it was fisted over by the Argentine custodian Lillo. The next minute saw Argentina come closest to scoring when Passarella headed in a corner but it was fisted over by Valdes Perez.

Argentina began strongly in the second session, with Kempes being stood down to allow Ramon Diaz to come in. They came close to equalising but Diaz shot a Bottom pass off the mark. Zico also missed an easy chance when Leandro served him a chance on a platter.

Then in the 22nd minute of the second session Brazil's luck through Serrinho. The move started with Eder who passed to Zico. The latter

found Falcão, who, finding himself at an acute angle, floated the ball to an onrushing Serrinho for the latter to head in (2-0). Seven minutes later, a brilliant defence splitting pass by Zico found defender Junor, as if by remote control message in line to beat Lillo (3-0).

Brazilian goalkeeper Valdes Perez became the first Brazilian to be shown the yellow card when he argued with the referee. A little later, when Zico was fouled and had to be carried off, Batista found his first cap for Brazil in the World Cup. But he was in the centre of the action that saw Maradona sent off. As he came up to tackle Passarella he appeared to have risen high enough to kick the Argentine. Although this was unintentional, Maradona showed his frustration at not being able to play well by kicking Batista off the ball. He was sent off and Oscar was shown the yellow card for threatening behaviour towards Maradona. Then a minute before the end Diaz scored a consolation goal for Argentina with a 20 yard drive (3-1).

## BELGIUM vs POLAND

**EVIL** as France was rebuffing a setback to form in Madrid, the Poles who came to life only in their last Group One tie with Peru which they won 5-1 were getting ready to face the much-touted Belgians who had headed Group Three, having beaten Argentina in the preliminaries. Pele, who was covering the championship for Mexican TV, had predicted that the Belgians could well prove to be giant killers.

But that was not to be. Poland began strongly and kept the tempo through the entire match, giving the Belgians no chance of making a fight of it. And yet they won their goals hastily from counter attacks. The secret of their success lay in the speed with which Lato and company took the ball to the opposite camp. The most interesting aspect of the match was that the midfield was a no man's land. Both teams had their share of control but it was the Poles who derived benefits from it.

But if one person were to be singled out for this success, it would be Zbigniew Boniek, red haired athlete and moomy. Set to join Juventus of Italy after the World Cup, this brilliant forward scored a hat-trick to lead the goal hunters' list of this championship. Coming close on his heels for individual recognition was the second late who at 32 was one of just two players in the squad from the one which finished third in the 1974 World Cup. They ripped through the Belgian defence and caused goalkeeper Costas a lot of problems.

But it was Boniek who was in the limelight in the fourth minute of

## WORLD CUP



# MATCH OF THE WEEK

**T**HE RCD Espanol, at the Sarria Stadium in this fun loving city will probably never be the same. In a dramatic reversal of form, unfancied Italy very comprehensively beat World Champions Argentina 2-1 to collect two points in Group C at the second round World Cup competition.

The match served a perfect example of Italian defensive tactics as they held off all Argentine attacks with sometimes as many as eleven men in the penalty area. They relied almost exclusively on counter attack to pressurise the Argentine in defence.

By seeing the exhibition of deplorable professionalism in the first session, one had doubts whether the match would end at all. After Italy had made a few tentative forays into the Argentine territory, the game gradually got bogged down in foul play.

By being kicking and throwing to meddle the order of play as five minutes to half, the yellow carded out the first session. They were Paolo Rossi and Claudio Gentile of Italy and Mario Kempes, Florentino Muscatelli and Alejandro Ardiles of Argentina.

Interestingly, three of these were in a group with the referee, who were also the three kicks awarded in this half and one of the other ten undetected fouls.

The Italians were generally the aggressors, especially Gentile who stuck like a leech to Maradona, the danger man of Argentina. He was largely successful as the so-called best footballer in the world did not get through more than twice in the entire half. Even on those occasions, he could not find his touch.

On the other hand, Italy came very near to scoring when Antognoni's free kick from 25 yards grazed the crosspiece before sailing out. Diaz was the only Argentinian who came near to putting his team ahead when his shot was tipped over by the 40-year-old Italian goalkeeper and captain Dino Zoff.

The 33,000 capacity stadium came to life in the second session—after booing the teams off at the end of the first—when, in the fourth minute, Graziani got the ball in the open, but his first-timer was wide. The Italians continued to maintain pressure and, in the eighth, Tardelli sent a rasping shot from 40 yards out which was tipped over by the Argentine goalkeeper.

Three minutes later came the first of the Italian goals. It was a combined move which ended when Tardelli came from the left into the penalty area and sent a stiff angular grounder which saw the back of the net (1-0).

Almost immediately thereafter Argentina

made two simultaneous substitutions—Kempes and Diaz going off for Valencia and Calderon. In the 20th minute, Maradona came near levelling when his free kick beat Zoff but struck the post.



Paolo Rossi

Then, in the 23rd minute, Italy struck again. Paolo Rossi found himself with an easy chance as the ball floated to him in the clear and all he had to do was flick it past a helpless goalkeeper. But, instead of chipping the ball, he tried to slam it in hard. The ball came off the custodian and this time Rossi passed to an unmarked Cabrini. Even as the goalkeeper was scrambling back into position, Cabrini hit hard and high to find the top of the net to make it 2-0.

As the Italians were tiring and with Rossi still not in position to continue for

90 minutes because he has played only six matches after his two year suspension, the manager Enzo Bearzot brought him and Orsini off and put in Marin and Altobelli in their places.

With just nine minutes to go, Passarella got a free kick to curl into the goal from about 20 yards out to make it 2-1. That brought some life back into the game, especially for the Spanish Argentinian fans in the Sarria. But, despite some brave efforts, they failed to earn a draw. In fact, worse was in store. Gallego, who is a tough Argentinian, fouled Tardelli off the ball. The referee promptly showed him the yellow card which meant the in the event of Brazil beating Argentina, this was his last appearance in the twelfth World Cup competition.

The last few minutes of the match were left for Argentina to bring nine men into the attack and thereby nearly conceding a third goal when Conti missed the easiest chance of the match as he raced into the penalty area alone, but could not chip the ball over the advancing goalkeeper's head.

But this result should not be taken as an upset—apart from the fact that Argentina were the last champions. In their last seven outings before this meeting, Italy had lost only one match to Argentina.

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play, Lato brushed past deep defender Millecamps and, from the edge of the playing area, sent a sharp shot back. The advancing Boniek sent a bullet of a shot on the run which found the roof of the net.

Two chances were wasted thereafter—one by each side, the offenders being Ceulemans for Belgium and Kuprewicz for Poland—and it was not until the 26th minute that Poland struck again. Deep defender Zmuda got one to Binicul, who cut out Renquin, substituting for the injured Gerets of Belgium and found Boniek, who gracefully headed over the uncertain goalkeeper to see the ball floating into the goal.

The third goal, which came nine minutes after half-time, was again created by Lato. Receiving the ball near the penalty area, he swivelled on his feet and then raced through to find an unguarded Boniek. The latter side-stepped the advancing goalkeeper and pushed into an empty goal.

This victory gave the Poles an excellent chance of up, having to measure up to the individual play of the Soviet Union to get through to the semi-finals.

## AUSTRIA vs FRANCE

FOOTBALL pundits, after studying the preliminary group matches, were almost certain that Austria would go through to the semi-finals from Group D. France had looked a lick-lustre side without motivation when they barely made it to the second round after being defeated by England and held by Czechoslovakia. Austria had started out well, although they, too, were extremely lucky in making it to the second round at the expense of Algeria. It was only an obviously arranged match with West Germany, which the latter won 1-0—just enough to see Austria through on goal difference—that allowed them through.

The Madrid encounter, however, saw France back in their usually graceful game, with a lot of individual flair. The French began with their main spring, Michel Platini. This might have come as a blessing, because it allowed the other players—constantly under his dictates—to play their natural game.

And in this they succeeded as they took control of the game from the beginning and should have won by a far higher margin than the 1-0 end result. If they had taken their chances, they could well have done so. But the three-man attack, comprising Soler, Lacombe (who was replaced by Richeteau in the 15th minute) and Didier Six failed to complete the jobs begun in midfield by Genghini. Girard, who came in Gnesse's place late in the first half and Tigana. In fact, it was Tigana who was the real surprise. He is a



Zbigniew Boniek of Poland



Horst Hrubesch of West Germany

slightly built player, but his swift turns and accurate through passes were a constant source of worry for the Austrians.

The match winner came in the 39th minute through a free kick taken by Genghini. Three minutes earlier, he had beaten Austrian custodian Kunczka with a 25 yard shot, but the ball rebounded off the crosspiece. This time, he made no mistake, sweeping the ball past the wall of defenders and finding the top corner of the net.

For Austria, this was a disappointing match, but which they had only themselves to blame. They did not seem to get going—a predicament that seemed to have afflicted them from the time they met the Germans who beat them 1-0 in a very drab encounter. The last in Group Two. Their mainstay, Hans Krankl, did not do anything up front to disturb the French defence, which has never been too strong. In fact, the most glaring defect of the French backs had been their inability to cope well with floated passes in the penalty area. The Austrians never exploited this, thus putting themselves in the unhappy position of having to beat Northern Ireland and then hoping that the latter would take care of the French.

# Man of the week

The twelfth World Cup has been a disaster for some of the biggest names in soccer, while there have been others who have been treated slightly better by fate. Perhaps, the biggest failure has been Diego Maradona of Argentina, rated the world's best. But there have been some who have, despite this very real danger to forwards in this international competition, succeeded. This was no other than Karl Heinz Rummenigge who did not have an outstanding competition, but certainly displayed his class in some matches. But there were others—very very few, like Bal of the Soviet Union—who introduced themselves to international audiences with a promise of better things to come. The name that first comes to mind in this sphere is that of Terry Butcher wearing the by now familiar number four shirt. Representing a side that, on the strength of its own performance, should not have been playing in Spain, Butcher and his team have been improving with every minute bar one until the second stage where everything depended on the last Group B encounter with Spain to determine whether England or Germany would reach the

semi-final and meet France.

According to Jack Charlton, the ablest person to judge the capabilities of a centre-half, since he adorned that position with great distinction when England won the World Cup in 1966, Butcher is the ablest person in that position.

"I see him getting better with every game he plays for England. At this standard of football, a centre-half does not want to be dashing about all over the place.

"It is about watching opponents and waiting and seeing things happen. It takes a bit of getting used to, but he seems to be grasping it very quickly."

Butcher is a former Grammar School boy from Lowestoft. His domestic football career is now concentrated on Ipswich Town, where he is very highly rated. The 23-year-old is a lanky six feet two plus and comes on to the field in an easy, loping stride that could easily be mistaken for laziness. But once a match starts, he is all brains and legs—covering every possible angle of attack and quick to put his own men through.

Butcher's soft appearance is only for his off-field activities. Once a match starts, he is a

tough, sometimes ruthless defender who will stretch every sinew to stretch of the opposition forward. Not averse to tackles of all kinds—both legitimate and other wise—Butcher has already marked himself out as a player England would do well to keep as a regular in its squad for a decade from now.

Talking about his experiences in Spain, Butcher says "I am just savouring the whole atmosphere of the World Cup. Not just the football, but the country, the travelling, the business of being together with the team and learning more and more about international football."

Being a regular in the squad, he naturally begins with the first match. "It doesn't seem five minutes since I came in against Scotland, but since then I seem to have learned so much more about the game. At this level I have discovered that it is as important to be as fit mentally as physically."

He has also understood that it is vital to strike up an understanding with the rest of the squad particularly the people in the same line. "I had hardly played with Phil Thomson until we came away (to Spain), but the understanding we have

reached has been a bonus."

Butcher was one of the very few players who caught the eye in that dreary match England had with the ultra-defensive West Germany in the second phase of the championship. In fact, on the rare occasions when the Germans ventured into attack, it was the combination of Phil Thompson and Terry Butcher that saw them snuffed out. Except, of course, three minutes from the end when Rummenigge sent that rasping shot to the cross piece.

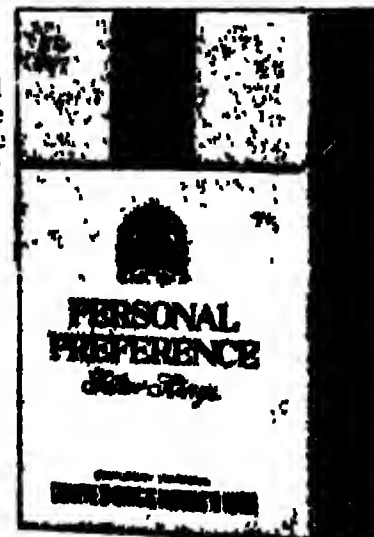
But Butcher was calm throughout—and brutally efficient. He marked himself out as a positive centre-half, who knows when to be where and how to deal with aggression. While his cool is an asset to any side, it is his deft touch and tackle that makes him an exciting prospect in the years to come.

In Spain, Butcher's practice sessions were a treat to watch. He runs in as a goalkeeper—to sharpen his reflexes as well as his muscles.



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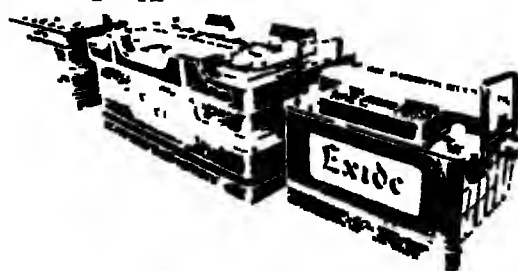
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# WORLD CUP *Action Photographs*

(Clockwise from top right) Algerian forward Salah Assad (left) scores his second goal for his team past two Chilean defenders, Honduras Porfirio Betancourt dribbles past three North Ireland players to launch an attack, England's Steve Coppel (centre) is robbed of the ball by Kuwait's Mahboud Jomah (3) and Al Houti (on ground)



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# PROFILES

**T**HE team that shattered England's pride at having an unbeaten home record against foreign opposition in the Fifties was Hungary and the man who remained most memorable in that feat was Ferenc Puskas, one of the greatest players world soccer has ever seen. That was a period when the soccer sky of Hungary was illuminated by a galaxy of superstars. Hidegkuti was there, the master player known for his incredible finesse, then that marvel of a header, Kocsis and so many other talented marauders who made the Hungarians a force to reckon with on the stage of international football. But of them all, the most eye-catching was this son of a mediocre soccer player of Kispest, who was born with the makings of a great footballer and sharpened his innate skills to an unbelievable height of excellence through tremendous hard work during his chequered footballing career.

After barefoot days of street soccer, Puskas made his league debut for Kispest at the age of 16. Before that, he played for the national side at

the youth level and made his mark as an up-and-coming national footballer. Now Puskas set about the task of polishing his skills further to eliminate the shortcomings that still plagued his game to a certain extent.



Puskas' international debut came at the age of 17. The match was against Austria and the Dutch team was star-studded with such seasoned footballers as the

Ujpest pair, Szusza, Szengeller and many other experienced internationals in their peak form.

Yet, Puskas outshone all the others, putting up a spectacular display of his skills. Hungary won the match 5-2, marking the beginning of an 11 year long international career for Puskas.

After the Second World War, the Hungarian FA set about reorganising the club set up to revamp the game in the country. Now Kispest became the official Army club and came to be known as Honved. In addition, with a view to forming an exceptionally strong team, some of the top ranking players of the country were taken into the club. But what was so significant about it all was that the whole development proved to Puskas' advantage. As Honved became synonymous with the cream of Hungarian football, Puskas got the long awaited opportunity of playing along with the best footballers of his time, like goalkeeper Grosics

winghalf Boszik, forward Kocsis and Czibor, all legendary figures in the history of the game.

The results were immediate. Puskas' skills improved noticeably. And thus the 'Galloping Major' was now poised for some astounding feats.

In 84 internationals Puskas scored as many as 84 goals, a really mind boggling average. But the more peculiar thing was that he got most of these goals with his left foot.

And just as surprising was the reason for which he was led to develop such a habit, depending too much on his left leg. As he himself used to say, his father could only afford one pair of shoes between him and his brother. The right one was meant for him and he never dared to kick a ball with it lest it should get damaged which meant no more shoes.

But that one leg was enough. Puskas became such a prolific scorer that it was nearly impossible to keep track of his goals. He was tremendously proud of it. When Pele was once described as the only man to score 1000 goals, Puskas quipped: "I get at least 1,500, but who's counting?"



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# Man of the week

WORLD CUP

**Paul Mariner of England (centre)  
locked in an aerial tussle with some  
French players**

COLORSPORT







# PERSONAL PREFERENCE



# RECORDS

## Brazil's distinction

BRAZIL is the only nation to have entered the final stages of the World Cup on all twelve occasions. On the other hand, at the 1978 World Cup, Iran and Tunisia made their debut in the final stages, thereby becoming the 46th and 47th nation to do so.

## Four goals each

THE record individual tally of goals in a World Cup final is four, to be a feat which has been achieved by no less than eight players. They are Gertie Welser from Sweden, Fredo da Silva, Brazil, Ernest Wilimowski, Poland, Ademir, Brazil, Hugo Scifo from Uruguay, Samir Konecni, Czechoslovakia, just once, and Francis Goodenough, England, just once.

## Three extra-time finals

SWEDEN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, and POLAND have each been involved in three extra-time World Cup finals. The first was in 1938, when Sweden beat Poland 4-2 in the final.



Geoff Hurst heads in a cross to score the only goal of the infamous England-Czech quarter in 1966.

4-2, and finally in 1978 at Buenos Aires, Argentina surpassed Holland 3-1.

## Best defensive record

ENGLAND with the amazing Gordon Banks in goal, emerged triumphant in the 1966 World Cup, but that was not their sole claim to fame. They emerged with the best defensive record as well, having conceded only three goals in six matches.

## New substitution rule

SUBSTITUTION was introduced in the first round of the Mexico World Cup, a new rule which allowed the coach to bring in two players who had been

placed from either side at any juncture in the game. This pre-paid to the old rule that only injured players could be replaced. Under the new ruling, the German Crabbowski was the first ever substitute and had the added distinction of creating the winning goal, against Mexico.

## Hurst's feat

ENGLAND'S Geoff Hurst is the only player

in World Cup history to have recorded three goals in a World Cup final. He performed his feat in the 1966 final and was chiefly instrumental in his side's amazing victory over West Germany.

## Record attendance

THE world record attendance for a soccer match is 199,850 for the World Cup final featuring Brazil versus Uruguay at Rio de Janeiro in 1950.

## For keeps

THE Jules Rimet Trophy, won by the Brazilian three, went permanently to them after they beat twice World Cup winners Italy in the 1970 final. A new World Cup was introduced from 1974.

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# Another West German folk hero

**F**RANZ BECKENBAUER had to wait a long time before he became a star, much longer than Toni Schumacher. Beckenbauer was not so easy to grasp. Nor had he such a sunny nature.

Schumacher became the European champion in 1980 and scarcely a year passed before he was smiling from the hoardings on placards three metres high and four metres wide, curly-haired, jolly with the expression of an impudent schoolboy. The national goalkeeper, Schumacher advertises Hamburgers. Not the Hamburgers in the football team but the grilled kind that you eat. Even the smiling Schumacher said that he had liked their Hamburgers, the firm that makes them was unable to keep pace with the demand. A new man had emerged in business.

In past years, the Germans have been hard put to it to find a star. Following Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Müller and Sepp

Maier no more appeared on the scene. Low tide. Then came Hansi Müller. But he was too handsome and sleek. Then Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the good-natured fair head. And right after him was the cantankerous Paul Breitner, the Beard. But none of them could arouse total euphoria among the fans. So there was a gap in the market and Schumacher was exactly what the people liked to see in a star player.

He even has that in writing. Pal Berkovic, a Hungarian who acts as agent for actors, artists and other prominent personalities in connection with advertising, asked 3,000 people who had the most advertising "pull". The answer: Toni Schumacher. Berkovic gave Schumacher a testimonial that is worth its weight in gold. It states that Schumacher is the sportsman possessing the widest appeal to ordinary people. He has a sense of humour, youthful vitality

and disarming frankness. He is admired because of his performance, determination and discipline. He merits confidence and is regarded as an example to others, loved by fathers as well as mothers. Identification with him is easy.

It sounds staggering. Yet Schumacher's public appeal is easy to reduce to its essentials. To two qualities which seem to everyone, especially these days, to be admirable and worth striving for: Schumacher is optimistic and is very frank.

"We will be world champions," he says and everyone knows what he means by that. Naturally something can happen to prevent it. "We are flying out to Spain in a cheerful mood and you at home can rely on us. That's how it is meant. And everyone's happy about it. For optimism is what we lack and we are grateful to everyone who gives us a bit of it."

Toni Schumacher



"Young players in the Federal league have no consideration for themselves or their opponents. All they think of is the big money and making a career and they are spurred on by their trainers," says Schumacher. No one else dares to be quite so frank.

"The referees are bad. They have no idea because most of them have never played football. Referees should also be professionals," says Schumacher.

People are amused by such remarks and enjoy them. That's what makes Schumacher a star. He is now earning almost half a million Deutsch Marks a year through advertising and nearly another half million through football. For 1 FC Cologne it is a bargain and for the firms he advertises too. He is sending the stock of all of them up.

Schumacher admittedly has a good nose for the nuances in the human psyche. The story of his first name shows that. Actually it is not Toni but Harald. But years ago Cologne had a goalkeeper named Schumacher, Toni Schumacher who performed such remarkable deeds in a European Cup match at Liverpool that he was christened the "Hero of Liverpool."

What could Schumacher II do when he became the goalkeeper for Cologne in 1972? Day after day, match after match he played against his predecessor? Day after day he would say "I'm not called Toni, I'm called Harald." In the end he would have been a nobody, no longer Harald and not a hope of being Toni.

He must have felt there was only one possibility and that was to become Toni in order to survive. And that's what he did. He is only named Harald in his passport. And what was left of the mantle of the "Hero of Liverpool" fell on his shoulders. Toni, that could only be another hero.

And that's what happened. Toni Schumacher, with amazing knock knees, one of them incurably damaged and a figure that has nothing athletic about it, became the best goalkeeper of the Federal league and Europe.

But a lot of dirty water had to flow down the Rhine before Federal trainer Derwall came to the conclusion that the "happiness" of the Rheinland concealed a serious person. "I am not one of those who wants to sit out his career on the bench. I want to get in goal", said Schumacher, and he meant the national team.

Three weeks later he stood in the goalmouth. That was on May 13, 1980 and since that day he is the one the reserves have to go to with their hat in their hands to ask if he will let them play a half. For Cologne's keeper Toni Schumacher is determined to become world champion in Spain.



Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (white) full of tricks, skilful in ball play and a powerful shooter

# The history of soccer

**A**LTHOUGH the first set of soccer rules was drawn up in Britain in the nineteenth century, there is mention of the game's existence—albeit informal—in some interesting corners of the world.

The earliest evidence, without doubt, comes from China, where a game called *tsu chu* finds mention in records dating back to two centuries prior to the birth of Christ. The word *tsu* means to kick, while *chu* means a ball and this game was pursued keenly by Chinese soldiers who used goals made of liambon poles and netting. Those who performed well were rewarded with promotions and predictably enough, losers were sometimes punished, although the records do not go into details on this score.

The Japanese also played a similar game and by the turn of the seventh century, it had developed into *kemari*, a game played on an actual pitch. Each corner of the pitch was marked out with a tree—a pine, cherry, maple and, of course, a willow. As a matter of fact, one cannot help but wonder if China and Japan actually played against each other before the birth of Christ.

The ancient Greeks and Romans also had their equivalent of the game. The Greeks called it *episkuros* and the Romans referred to it as *harpastum*. In fact, these games bore greater resemblance to rugby or American football and opposing sides employed almost any tactics to force the ball across the other's line. Since, of course, there was no fixed set of rules as such, these games often ended in confusion, but it was all part and parcel of the sport.

The citizens of Florence have also advanced their claims to the beginnings of the game. A sport called *calcio* enjoyed great popularity in the sixteenth century and was a constant source of entertainment in the Piazza della Croce, where throngs of people would gather and cheer their respective heroes. But this was a game with a difference: for no less than 27 men made up a single side and each one of them was dressed in period costume. Indeed, the game is still played even today,

although the sole purpose is to attract tourists.

England hosts a more or less similar event at Ashbourne in Derbyshire where every year the town people play a game, using the gates of the splendid Ashbourne Hall and the gates of the local Church as the two goals. These games were extremely popular in Britain a few centuries ago and it was in Derbyshire that they aroused the strongest passions. It was from this that we get the frequently used expression "local Derby" which indicates a contest between two teams from the same town or from neighbouring towns.

could be anything from an existing structure to two sticks planted in the ground. Wounds were commonplace and it often happened that bystanders—who had nothing at all to do with the game—sustained injuries.

This game was referred to as "mob football" and not surprisingly, was frequently banned by law.

Businessmen of the City of London brought pressure on King Edward II to try and stop the game—if indeed it could be called a game. In 1314, an Act prescribed imprisonment for anybody who played football in London. That was really a far cry from 1966, when millions of English soccer fans rejoiced over their country's



A Blackburn Rovers forward heads home in the FA Cup Final against Notts County in 1891

Shrove Tuesday football was another great tradition in many parts of England. True to form, these games were more a festive occasion than anything else, where anybody could take part and where games sometimes ended with more than a hundred people on either side. It did not really matter who won or lost, for the spirit of the game was the most important thing. There was no bar on tactics of any sort and the game only ended when one side forced the ball through the opposing "goal", which

triumph in the World Cup following the strict example set by Edward II were Edward III, Richard II and Henry IV who viewed the popularity of football as threat to their own national defence. The reason? Then archers were playing the game when they should have been devoting their time to polishing up their archery skills. In neighbouring Scotland, James I threatened footballers with imprisonment.

By the sixteenth century, there was still an element of barbarism in



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the game. In the words of Sir Thomas Elyot, football gave no pleasure to decent men, being "but beastlike furie and violence". A more charitable description came from Philip Stubbes in "Anatomie of Abuses", for he said it was a more "friendly kinde of fighte" than a game. He also described the use of fists and elbows to the ribs and other "murdering devices".

In 1572, Queen Elizabeth was still trying to eradicate the game of football—at least as far as the streets of

several towns began to draw up and enforce sets of rules to make it more a game than a battle. However, the inevitable occurred since the game was being played in so many different parts of the country, a different set of rules prevailed in each area. Thus, what was permissible in one part of the country was frowned upon in another. But the game was undergoing a transformation.

In Britain, there were two distinct games that developed out of it. Soccer and rugby finally went their own

football was being played at most of the popular public schools and universities. Here again, different sets of rules and regulations prevailed. Each school played the game on the most suitable ground available and thus adopted their own rules, largely to suit their own purposes.

Thereby, football at Charterhouse was played on the stones of the cloisters, with no less than 20 players a side. Winchester and Westminster played along the same lines, but there were no goals at Winchester and the ball had to be kicked over the lines that marked the extremities of the playing area in order to register a goal.

The game at Harrow, however, looked more like modern soccer, as it included eleven players a side.

To a group of keen students at Cambridge University went the distinction of making the first positive step towards the formation of modern soccer. At a historic meeting in 1848, they sat down to draft the first set of formal rules. History records that it was a lengthy session, but in view of the gravity of the situation, this was quite understandable.

According to the new set of rules, it was permitted to use one's hands to trap the ball, but most important, the tougher elements of the game were eliminated completely and the offside rule came into existence. The new game's popularity began to spread and the first soccer club was formed in Sheffield in the 1850's, adhering largely to the Cambridge rules.

The next event that helped put soccer on the path to eminence came on October 26, 1863, when representatives of eleven London schools met at the Freemason's Tavern in Holborn to form the Football Association. A vote was taken with regard to the formal rules and the Cambridge resolutions were mostly followed.

These laws did not enjoy universal acceptance, but they were amended rapidly. The influence of the Sheffield clubs who joined the Football Association in 1867, led to handling of the ball being abolished altogether and to the introduction of the crossbar in 1875. Prior to the introduction of this rule from 1866, a tape had been



England playing Scotland at The Oval in 1872

London were concerned—but to no avail. According to Samuel Pepys, when the Thames was frozen over in the winter of 1654-55 "people played at ve loutehalle on ve Thames by great numbers".

Yet the trend was on the decline in the eighteenth century. Fewer people played it and even less people showed an interest in it. However, it maintained just enough momentum to survive the turn of the century and by then incidents of violence were few and far between. It was around this time that players them-

separate ways in 1823. That was the year William Webb Ellis made history of sorts by running with the ball in his hands at Rugby School. According to the Rugby School conventions, handling the ball was permissible, but one was not allowed under any circumstances to run with it. Ellis' deviation was viewed as an improvement and a new set of rules was drawn up for the game that was ultimately called rugby, which involved carrying the ball while running.

In the early nineteenth century,

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stretched across the goalposts, a system that was unreliable to say the very least

Many of the characteristics of the game which are now so much a part and parcel of our lives were actually innovations in the 1860's and 1870's and for many of them the Sheffield clubs were largely responsible. The role of the goalkeeper, for instance, became clearly defined for the first time in 1870. Furthermore, an offside rule was formally established in 1867 and further modified in 1886. Goal kicks and corner kicks were written into the rules and umpires, one on either side, were introduced in 1874. The umpires ruled the game, but the arbitrator was the referee and flags were used to convey all decisions. Referees were only given whistles as late as 1878 and they were not given complete control until 1891 when the umpires became linesmen.

**T**HE first individual to make an impact on the game was Charles W. Alcock, himself a leading player who became secretary of the Football Association in 1870. He soon realised that the only way the game could take root and flourish, thereby gaining a mass base, was if the Association gained control over all clubs. Accordingly, he set about canvassing with the northern teams and was farsighted enough to realise that formal competitions rather than friendly matches would serve the purpose.

Another step forward was a representative match the same year between England and Scotland at the Kennington Oval. The Scottish team, incidentally, was composed of Scots men who were settled in England. The latter won 1-0 and a series of return matches followed.

But Alcock's best idea involved the proposal for a Cup competition. The initial response was inspiring and a trophy was soon acquired at a cost of £20. A total of 15 teams competed for the honour, among them being Queen's Park, a club that had been founded in Glasgow in 1867 and one that was later to have a profound influence on the game in Scotland and England as well. Queen's Park were by far the strongest side going

and they were instrumental in organising the Scottish sides of the early official international matches. They jumped at Alcock's proposal regarding a Cup competition and generously donated a guinea towards buying the trophy.

Thus in the first-ever FA Cup competition Queen's Park went up to the semi-final. The story of how they did so might seem rather strange but it is true. They did not play a single game on the way to the semi-final stage! They received a bye into the first round but their second round opponents scratched. Queen's Park played Wanderers at The Oval

was M. P. Bretts, who for some strange reason, played the game under the name A. H. Chequers. The reason, one gathers, was probably to associate his club, Harrow Chequers, who had withdrawn in the first round, with the first Cup competition. This whim certainly cost him recognition, for most soccer histories record the goalscorer as being one A. H. Chequers.

Charles Alcock also played the game, as captain of the Wanderers side and was soon acclaimed as one of the greatest players of the era. Another footballer who made a name



Football being played at Rugby School in 1870

in the semi-final but the game ended in a goalless draw. The former were required to travel to London for the replay but found that they did not have the necessary funds and so withdrew from the tournament. The disappointment of fans and players alike, who had looked forward to some fine soccer.

Wanderers therefore reached the final (a rather mundane achievement since they had played only one game to get there) and defeated the favourites, Royal Engineers 1-0. The person who scored that historic goal

for himself was the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, who was later to become Lord Kinnaird and the High Commissioner for the Church of Scotland. A third outstanding player was Major Sir Francis Macdonald, who led the Royal Engineers, the strongest side of that time. Macdonald, who was as good a leader as he was a player, figured in two finals and refereed eight others.

But the record for Cup Final appearances went to Kinnaird, who played no less than nine: three for Wanderers and six for the Old To-

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nians Both Marindin and Kinnaird went on to become presidents of the Football Association and the latter was actually awarded the FA Cup in 1911 for his services to the game.

This was actually the second trophy, as the first was stolen in 1895 from a brewer's window where it was being proudly displayed by the holders, Aston Villa. The third Cup is the present one, so Kinnaird and a thief were the only people to possess an FA Cup of their own.

In the year 1872, Kinnaird and Alcock put the first international match in the record books when they arranged a game between England and Scotland—this time a truly representative match. The encounter took place in Partick on November 30 and ended in a 0-0 draw, a result that was never to be repeated there after.

With Cup competitions and internationals in full swing in England and Scotland it only remained for the concept of league football to be drawn up, thereby completing the competitive structure of the game as it exists today. This came about in 1888 and was the inspiration of a Scot, William McGregor who was a director of Aston Villa. He contacted a number of other clubs and suggested a competition involving around 10 or 12 sides, the clubs to play each other both at home and away.

At two separate meetings in hotels in Manchester and London, the first five clubs agreed to invite seven others to join them and thus was the Football League formed. The first matches took place in September 1888 and the twelve clubs were Accrington, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Derby County, Everton, Notts County, Preston North End, Stoke, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton. Of these only Accrington has since dropped out of the League while the other sides are all major names in the history of English soccer. The inaugural championship was won by Preston North End who did not drop a single match throughout.

The pattern of the game was by now firmly established and at around the same time it became proper to refer to it as "soccer" while rugby football had come to be known as "rugger".

Actually, the story of how the word "soccer" came into being makes interesting reading. The two games were actually referred to as rugby and association football. Towards the end of the 1880's, Charles Wretford Brown was asked by a friend at Oxford University if he would care for a game of rugger, but he replied that he would prefer "soccer", an instant corruption of the word "association" and the name appealed to popular fancy and stuck.

Professionalism was not legalised in Britain until 1885 and the great teams and players of the early years of organised soccer were actually the old boys of the public school teams. Wanderers, whose five FA Cup wins came from the first seven years of the competition, included old Harrow School players, among them Charles Alcock and Lord Kinnaird.

Oxford University, Old Romans and Old Carthusians also won the Cup in the first decade and Major Marindin, who led the Army team, Royal Engineers, was himself an Old Etonian. By the 1870's, Scottish players had started the long trek to the rich Lancashire towns, hopeful of finding places in local teams and also the pay packets that went along with being a team member. Indeed, many of the Scottish players of the time were tactically more advanced and superior to their English counterparts and so it was only natural that the English clubs were more than willing to pay for their services.

In 1876 one James Lang came from Glasgow to join Sheffield Wednesday, the famous Yorkshire Club, and he is generally acknowledged by most soccer historians as the first professional. It was at around this time that the balance of power began to shift, slowly but surely, to the North. Darwen came close to reaching the Cup Final of 1879, albeit with the help of professionals who were very much a part of the game by this time—and Blackburn Olympic won in 1883.

The Cup thereafter was dominated largely by teams from the North and the Midlands until 1901 and then again until 1921, but it is noted that the Football Association did not approve of the trend, especially since some of the Northern teams consisted entirely of paid Scotsmen.

In 1883 came the crisis. That was

the year Accrington were banned from the Cup for paying a player. But that was not the end of the story. The following year there was a protest against mighty Preston over a similar complaint. Preston were disqualified and Major Sudell threatened to form a rival association and was of course supported in his stand by many of the Northern clubs. The Football Association had no other alternative but to legalise professionalism, although in those days, payment was meant to be compensation for lost wages. In 1885 the FA began a register of professionals which still exists. To begin with professionals had to qualify for their club by birth or by two years' residence within six miles of the ground. Later, when professionals wanted to move from one club to another, the new club had to buy the registration of the player from his previous club and transfer fees thus came into being.

The Football Association frowned on the buying and selling of players just as they did not approve of professionalism. Indeed the first £1,000 transfer, of Alf Common from Sunderland to Middlesbrough in 1905 was investigated by the FA Commission. In 1908 a law was passed limiting transfer fees to £750.

As the game progressed and interest bloomed the folk heroes began to emerge. Preston North End won the first League Championship without losing a match and the Cup without conceding a goal and the team was instantly nicknamed "The Old Invincibles". Till today the club is referred to as Proud Preston. Sunderland won the title three times in four years thereby earning themselves a label which is still remembered "The Team of All the Talents".

The immense popularity of soccer was emphasised when the FA Cup Final was held for the first time at the new Wembley Stadium in 1923. Wembley's capacity was 127,000 and was thought to be more than adequate, but as the Bolton Wanderers won the first of their three 1920's Cups with a 2-0 win over West Ham United, no less than 200,000 people forced their way in and the pitch at kickoff time was a swarm with crowds.

Soccer was here to stay.

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# It's all in the mind

That is how SHEKHAR MEHTA, the five-time winner of the toughest rally in the world, the Kenyan Safari, looks upon life on the circuit.

HARESH MUNWANI met him in Bombay recently

**S**HEKHAR MEHTA, the man who has won the gruelling Kenyan Safari car rally for the last four years in succession—and five times in all—does not look a bit like a car rally driver. Bespectacled, and blessed with a waistline that would do credit to a prosperous businessman, Mehta, by winning the Kenyan Safari, considered the toughest event on the rally circuit, has proved that in the final analysis it's all in the mind.

The 37-year-old Mehta, was in Bombay en route to Auckland where he would participate in a rally. He had just finished the rally in Greece and summed it up aptly when he remarked "By the time I reach New Zealand after being airborne for 48 hours, there will be no time to overcome the jetlag. As the saying goes, we will hit the nail the moment we are grounded."

Talking about his experiences in the 1980 Himalayan Rally, which Shekhar incidentally won, he said, "The rally route between Bombay and Delhi was densely populated and dangerous. All that stone throwing was not pleasant, but the fact remains that the Bombay-Delhi section was logistically complicated. Normally rally drivers change their wheels, say every 300km and consequently you need your service truck at these points. But there was no alternative or service road by which these trucks could reach those points. The rally route was just one straight road. Another minus point was that the rally itself was too long. I believe something in the region of 5000 km. This is ridiculous. Most rally events are held over a distance of 2500 to 3000 km. I have told the Indian officials that if they didn't eliminate the Bombay-Delhi section and clip the total distance, not many international drivers would be inclined to come here. At least I won't."

Explaining the reason for which he participated in the Indian event, Mehta revealed, "Opel the German car manufacturers approached me and asked me if I would like to drive their car. I agreed. Opel wanted to participate because the rally was going to be covered in a big way in German television. Had Opel not approached me, I would have been a non starter. As for the Indian orga-

nisation, I think in certain sections it was rather weak. They tried to do so much so quickly. With relative inexperience they had taken on something more than they could handle."

What are the factors he considers before deciding to enter a rally? Mehta replied, "Basically I have a contract, with Datsun. Though it is a flexible contract, they tell me where they would like me to participate. On my own I would rather enter an event which I enjoy. A rally where the scenery is good, people are friendly and the food is good. New

Every year, the international body designates 12 events for the world champion of drivers and 10 events for the world champion of car manufacturers. On an average a rally can last three to five days. Every year Shekhar enters six events and this means that he spends 20 weeks in a year on the road.

If Shekhar can help it he prefers reaching the rally site 12 days before the actual event begins. He uses this time to do practice runs on the rally route. "There are so many details that you have got to check out. You



Receiving the trophy from Mrs. Gandhi after winning the 1980 Himalayan Rally

Zealand, Greece, Brazil, Kenya are fine examples. I also enjoy the July rally in Argentina which has a beautiful countryside, but unfortunately this year it has been cancelled. The RAC rally in England is one event I always miss because it is held in November and it's cold, damp and foggy. It puts me off. Of course I generally select a long distance rally, say over 2000km because I drive the Datsun which is a very reliable car over long routes. It's very fast, but at the same time it rarely fails."

are using heavy wheels, special suspensions. It's good to get acclimatized to it. You have to go over the terrain you are going to encounter so that you can spell out your requirements. A driver can use seven different kinds of tyres on the route depending on factors like the terrain, the weather. A driver has also got to decide where he would like his service trucks to be positioned. It's hard work—this job of testing and practice. If you do well in a rally you have the satisfaction that you could

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perform better only because your advance planning was correct," informs Shekhar

In 1979, Mehta married Yvonne, an English girl who doubles as his co-driver in the rally. Says Yvonne, "When I met Shekhar in Uganda I was rallying more than he." Does one see a lot of women drivers on the circuit and how do they perform? Shekhar replies, "There are very few women drivers, Michele Montun, a French woman who triumphed at Greece is ranked second in the world. But I feel a lady could make a good co-driver. They have a better temperament when it comes to precision and paper work. To concentrate on details comes naturally to them. Women make better secretaries than men, don't they? As for the training it can be strenuous and tiring. But it's a question of mental attitude. One has to accept it if you want to succeed. Also it's another way of being together. Most rally drivers during a season don't see their wives for more than ten days in six months. Of course as a driver in the rally I have the right to lose my temper and say anything. Once the event is over it's all forgotten. The only time I don't take my wife as co-driver is during the Kenyan Safari. There I prefer to have a mechanic along with me because the road is treacherous and a car can break down. At that time it's good to know that you have a specialist with you."

Analysing the reasons as to why he has always done so well at the Kenyan Safari, Shekhar feels, "It is undoubtedly the toughest rally. It's the classic test, hard on the drivers and the machine. There is a bit of stone throwing but it's not organised or political. Just some joker's idea of fun. There have not yet been any serious injuries. It does well at the Safari which is held during the Easter



With his co-driver Drews before the start of a rally

because firstly I have a good car in Datsun next I have a feel for that place. I can read trouble before it happens much earlier than the other drivers. If a particular curve is going to be slippery I can sense it. Maybe by the changed look of the road or texture - something rings the bell. It's difficult to put it in words. Lastly it's my home event and it's important to me. One is always determined to do well on home ground."

Shekhar was born in Kampala, Uganda. After doing his schooling in Switzerland and England, Shekhar wanted to join the family business in sugar and thus returned home. In 1972 Idi Amin threw out all Asians from Uganda and the Mehtas moved to Nairobi, Kenya. As a sport Shekhar's interest in rallying was nothing extraordinary. He entered his first rally in 1966. Five years later, Datsun approached him to drive their car in the Safari event. Since then Mehta has been seen as a rally driver in Cyprus, Indonesia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Argentina, Greece, Italy, Brazil, New Zealand and India. In Nairobi, Mehta has a car business that assembles jeeps. In a humorous reference to his absence from his office because of his rallying activities, Shekhar quips, "That's because my staff insist that they can do a better job when I am not around."

What kind of money does he make? Mehta refused to disclose the amount except to say "The top three drivers make something in the region of 250,000 dollars. Of course all expenses for petrol, hotels and antares are paid for."

Mehta feels that in the final analysis, stamina is the most important quality for a rally driver. "And as long as I have the urge, the reflexes, I am going to enter. But more than anything else, I would like to win a rally in Europe simply because I have never won an event there."

Storming down the track



**CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

# Rough weather for Big Three

After beating Mohammedan S. C. in the crucial tie there was rejoicing in the East Bengal camp. Then Mohun Bagan conceded a point to Railway F.C. But barely 24 hours later, the smiles were no longer in evidence when East Bengal, too, were held by gutsy Aikya Sammilani. Mohammedan S. C. also went through a harrowing time. **SUBHASH SARCAR, SARAJIT DEB and SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL report on the matches**

**MOHUN BAGAN:** What Calcutta Gymkhana had failed to achieve in the previous week, Railway Football Club did, snatching a point from the champion club of India. Incidentally, this is the third year running that a league encounter between these two teams has ended without a result. On the one hand Mohun Bagan can consider themselves unlucky because the framework denied them two goals. On the other hand, they should thank their lucky stars because the last shot of the day by Ranjit Chatterjee, the R.F.C. striker, hit the cross piece after beating custodian Shibaji Banerjee.

In a game which was marred by rough play to a considerable degree, three players were shown the yellow card. Subrata Bhattacharya of

Mohun Bagan, Alok Majumdar and Nirmal Sengupta of R.F.C. For the loss of a valuable point, Mohun Bagan have themselves to blame. In the first half they earned a penalty when Alok handled the ball inside the box. Subrata hallucinated the ball from the resultant spot kick, to the dismay of the spectators. That was the only chance Mohun Bagan were able to create in the first half.

Mohun Bagan exerted more pressure in the second half and were unlucky when a header by Surajit Sengupta struck the crosspiece. The rebound came to Shyam Thapa, who shot out from close. On another occasion, Krishanu Dev's header off a Surajit centre hit the upright. Besides these there were two goalline saves by Alok, who put up a gallant

display for his side. Just when the spectators were resigned to the fact that their favourite team would be losing a point, Ranjit Chatterjee got a free ball and darted in and took a fierce right footer which struck the crosspiece.

The Mohun Bagan side which had Gautam Sarkar and Shyam Thapa as medios failed to dominate the mid-field, where the game is built. In the defence only Krishnendu Roy was confident. Subrata seemed to lose his head after missing the penalty, and though he went up in the late stages of the match, it hardly made any difference. The normally confident Satyant Ghosh tumbled at times and twice created a danger situation for his side. Gananga Banerjee, who is having a lean sea-



Players and officials of Railway F. C. plead with Mohun Bagan supporters not to throw stones

son, had another off day. In the forward line, only Krishanu and to a certain extent Surajit was somewhat effective. Coach Sankar Banerjee said "My main problem was that my two halves, Bikash Panji and Sujas Bera are on the injured list and I had to play Shyam in the midfield, which reduced the thrust in my attack."

The RFC players fought for every ball and in the second half employed three and sometimes four men in the midfield to control the vital zone. Their forwards, especially Ranjit, posed a few problems for the Bagan defence while in their own line of defence, stoppers Alok and Biswasjit Bera and right back Nirmal Sett hardly gave anything away. Coach Sankar Sarkar said "Perhaps the fact that we had drawn with Mohun Bagan for the last two years was at the back of their minds. They played very scrappy football. After the first half we fell back on the defensive and we were successful. In the end, I think the man who made the difference was Bikash Panji. If he had been there, he could have utilised our weakness, because he has played with my boys and I know them thoroughly."

**H**AVING dropped a vital point in their previous match, the home team started their match against Customs at a brisk pace and looked like coding easy victors. But then something suddenly went wrong midway and only managed to win by a brace of goals scored by Subrata and Surajit, one in each half. Subrata shot in a rebound from his own spot kick and Surajit scored after dribbling past the goalkeeper after receiving the ball in what was palpably an offside position.

Mohun Bagan exerted pressure in the initial stages of the first half and their first goal came midway through the session. Krishanu Dev, the youth international of the side, got the ball in the midfield area and square passed to Shyam, who in turn gave a through pass to Surajit, thereby catching the entire Customs defence on the wrong foot. Surajit had only the goalkeeper in front of him and just when he was about to take the shot he was brought down inside the box. The referee pointed to the dreaded spot and Subrata went forward to take the spot kick. Usually, Subrata is a sure converter of penalties but perhaps the fact that he had ballooned one in the last encounter was on his mind when he went near the spot. He took a feeble shot which the goalkeeper had no difficulty in reaching. But the ball slipped from his grasp and Subrata pounced on it to place it in

That was all Mohun Bagan could do in the first half. Customs got a chance to restore parity when, from a free kick, Sirangshu Karmakar headed down the ball, but Ashok Chandra took a wild shot which

sailed over the bar. The Customs players, who were using the 4-3-3 formation, slowly started dictating terms in the midfield with their numerical supremacy. It was the same story after the breather, when they had more of the ball and got another chance in the eighth minute when Prasanta Mitra shot over from close.

The hardworking Krishnendu Roy, who executed some fine overlapping movements, created a good move. But Amitava took a wild shot at the near post, straight into the waiting



Bhatri defender Debahanker Ghosh leaps to clear the ball. Mohammedan S C won

hands of the goalkeeper. Mohun Bagan's second goal came in the 13th minute of the second half. From his own territory, Shyam sent a pass to Surajit, who was standing in an offside position, by at least a yard. He had no one in front of him and Surajit ran down the middle unopposed, dribbled past the goalkeeper and pushed the ball home.

From the Mohun Bagan team Gautam Sarkar was somewhat effective for the first time in the season but the other linkman Sujas Bera, became the laughing stock of the crowd and did hardly anything right. Krishnendu was again the most enterprising player in defence while Satyajit regained some of his composure which he seemed to lack in the previous match. In the forward line, Krishanu sent some fine through passes but the others were far from effective.

**EAST BENGAL:** A big victory always tends to breed complacency in the victor and that was precisely what happened to the home team when they met the league bottom-rankers, Aikya Sammilani, in the very next match after their win over the giants Mohammedan Sporting.

◊◊ I don't believe a man has to be  
heard to be seen.  
Or wear a musical digital watch.  
I believe in an appearance  
that's personal.  
A look that says it all without  
having to say a word...



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LINTAS D ESU 6/2418



From the very beginning East Bengal, instead of seeking an early breakthrough and thereby keeping to the safe side, started playing a loose game. With the forwards romping all over the ground aimlessly like a disjointed lot, the Aikya defenders seldom came across any really dangerous move in the first half. Furthermore, they looked absolutely determined to prevent their superior rivals from breaking into their penalty area and the policy they pursued for this was to kick the ball away from their danger zone all the time.

And the man who played an important role in their defence was custodian Tapan Ghosh who on one occasion saved a sure goal by rushing out from the goalline at the most appropriate moment and cleared the ball in no time.

One of the main reasons for the lack of penetration in East Bengal's attacks was the fact that they continued to use Mihir Bose as the main spearhead in the offence. Of late Mihir has been in a miserable form, seldom coming anywhere near his former self. It is difficult to recall any move that was really initiated by this once unstoppable schemer-footballer of Calcutta.

On the other hand, the Aikya Sammilani, despite their limited strength seemed to be in real earnest to give East Bengal a shock.

In the second half, however, East Bengal made some sporadic attempts to gain control over the game. A few raids were made on the rival citadel, but they lacked sufficient power to cause any real damage to Aikya Sammilani.

**FROM** the way East Bengal has been playing since the beginning of this year's league championship, it seems that they will play well only when resistance from their opponents is almost zero. During their next match against Sonali Sibir East Bengal put up a more or less satisfactory performance to trounce their rivals 4-0. It was a one-sided affair from the very beginning, the East Bengal forwards having little trouble to make frequent inroads into the Sonali penalty area. Nevertheless, East Bengal never seemed to take things easy, probably the result of the setback they had to suffer in their previous match.

**MOHAMMEDAN S C.** Although they had not got over the shock meted out by East Bengal, the dishevelled black-and-whites managed to edge out a young Bhratri Sangha side. However, the manner in which they are performing could spell danger in the ensuing engagements. Junior teams have always been a constant headache to the Big Three and against the gutsy Bhratri boys, the home players were made to sweat.

The juniors did not waste the chances that came their way. They



*East Bengal's Amalraj and an Aikya Sammilani player in an aerial battle*

broke through on three occasions but the excellent anticipation of custodian Nasir Ahmed foiled them each time. It became obvious that, despite their talent, the Bhratri boys lacked finish.

The first fright came nine minutes after the start when striker Shankar Das took full advantage of the mis understanding between Moidul Islam and Pem Dorji but an onrushing Ahmed foiled the move. The home side came into the game after the initial setback but Shankar Adhikari's pass was wasted by an erratic Jamshid.

Once again, Nasir Ahmed came to the rescue after Dorji miskicked and a couple of minutes later Amit Mukherjee's header off a Basudeb Banerjee centie beat the goalkeeper but hit the bar. Ahmed's third save came when he rushed out to deflect the ball from Amit Mukherjee who had beaten both the home stoppers. The best chance for Mohammedan

S C came five minutes before lemon time when Jamshid failed to volley a brilliant Majid centre.

A blank first half saw the home side toil even harder and surprisingly, Bhratri began to slacken. The rearguards gave a good account of themselves with Nihar Dutta coming out best for his three goalline saves. The constant pounding of the citadel left the Bhratri defenders unnerved. A goal was inevitable, despite the story of missed chances. Sure enough, it came seven minutes before the long whistle. Majid lobbed the ball in the penalty box from a freekick and Moidul Islam leapt to head in brilliantly.

**PREDETERMINED** matches are a common feature on the Maidan but the way the home side acted against Calcutta Gymkhana had to be seen to be believed. Undoubtedly, Mohammedan S C had a clear edge.

over the spirited juniors but lacked punch and were erratic whenever a chance came their way. The way the Gymkhana boys fought had everyone on tenterhooks. The home defence was never tested except for one lapse by Nasir Ahmed which was rectified in time. Within the space of nine minutes the home team missed two good opportunities. A Mami shot hit the inside edge and rebounded for Jamshid to make a feeble attempt. This was followed by a header off Mami from Somenath Banerjee going out.

The first half yielded no result, but the real drama was to begin in the interval, albeit without the knowledge of most of the players. Three Mohammedan S.C. representatives were seen going to the Gymkhana suit. After the resumption, the Mohammedan S.C. players continued their struggle desperately with Majid getting the best chance from close.

Gymkhana football secretary Taj Mohammad who played the pivotal role off the field gestured to courageous goalkeeper Saroj Barua to leave the field some ten minutes prior to the final whistle. Disgusted by the constant urging Barua left the ground four minutes from time and substitute custodian Pradip Ghosh entered the field instead. Barua, for his part, could not dis-



Gymkhana custodian Saroj Barua, in a fit of anger.

guise his anger and threw away his jersey before arguing with his team officials.

The substitute goalkeeper had already shown signs of conceding a goal. He checked his pace when a shot was taken but the ball missed the net. When Mohammedan S.C. finally scored the all-important goal, there was total confusion. With as many as 18 players in the box, Majid took a free-kick and substitute Uttam Chakraborty headed the floater which hit the crosspiece but a Gymkhana defender handled the ball from inside the goalline before Pradip Ghosh could hold it and referee Haripada Das did the needful by blowing the whistle. Newsmen gathered to question the Gymkhana football secretary but both he and the club's general secretary tumbled for words. When Taj Mohammad was asked to say something about his team's performance he fumbled and asked us to come to the club. Said one of the officials: "Why are you blaming us? Was that a goal?" As for the players, most of them went back with a bad taste in the mouth. The most question is: who is destroying football in Calcutta? The junior clubs of the Big Three? One Gymkhana official said: "Everyone seems to find fault with whatever the junior clubs do. Why don't you blame the big clubs? Are we destroying football or is it the big clubs?"



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## Xenophobia?

**C**ALCUTTA perhaps is the greatest confluence of soccer talent in the country. Promising and established footballers from all over the country seek inter-State transfer to come to the capital of Indian football and play for the Big Three in the famous Calcutta league.

And many a grey-haired soccer follower of the country still nurtures proud memories of some great masters of the past who came to the city from other States. There were Mewalal, Kittu, Balaran and so many others, who made the maidan what Barcelona is to Spanish soccer or Wembley to English football.

Since then, the tradition has been persisting sometimes vigorously, sometimes dormant. The comparatively recent stars like Appalaraju and C. Prasad also treated us to many a spectacular display during their heyday. Remember that tall Eiffel Tower of a goalkeeper from the South, Thangaraj, who became one of the most popular footballers of his time?

Calcutta never bothered to find out which State he actually belonged to or what province he came from. Nor was his loyalty—or that of the others—ever questioned.

Even now players from different parts of the country are often offered huge sums of money to lend their loyalty to the three Calcutta leaders for one or two seasons. In fact, in the last two years, all three clubs seemed virtually in the grip of a craze for outstation stars.

They indulged in a sort of competition among themselves—a who-can-huy-how-many-foreign-celebrities kind of thing. The result was that a number of such players came to Calcut-

## Maidan musings

ta and added to the glamour of the three outfits—Harjinder, Gurdev, Manjit, David Williams and to top them all the three Iranians, Majid, Jamshed and Khabazi. Naturally, great expectations were woven around them.

But, could all of them live up to expected heights during their tenures? No. Only a few could, but not for long. But the worst part of it all was that the failure

of these players was often attributed to lack of loyalty on their part towards their respective clubs, the cause of it all being the fact that they were outstation players.

And that precisely was the dominant feeling in the East Bengal dressing room, when the club crossed a major hurdle in the running for this year's league honours by defeating one of their major rivals, Mohammed-

dan Sporting. In the victory they found a vindication of their theory that the main reason for their poor showing over the last season was lack of sincerity among the outstation stars. This year the club has ventured into the scene with almost all the players being local. And hence the success.

Now, the question is will East Bengal be able to stick to this notion and do away totally with players from other States in future? Moreover, will that be a healthy and profitable policy to pursue?

## The parallel authorities

On the Calcutta Maidan, referees are not the only persons who carry whistles. The soccer-pundits of the stands too often go to watch their favourite teams in action equipped with all the instruments of the conductors of matches—flags and whistles. Instances are not rare when players have stopped in their tracks, even at very crucial stages, having been misled by a sudden whistle from the stands.

Just as on one hand such whistling has caused considerable annoyance among players, it has given rise to many humorous situations also. Only a few days ago, before the start of a league match in which one of the three Calcutta big teams was to take on a small club, the players were observing two minutes' silence to pay their homage to a well-known personality of the city's soccer fraternity who had died.

The sound of a whistle suddenly shattered the silence. One player of the big team thought the referee had blown and started running towards the ball to do some warm-up exercises completely ignorant that all the other players were still standing in silence. The galleries burst into laughter, as expected.



## That exasperating call

The no-ball law is one of the few laws undergoing changes and amendments from time to time. When underarm bowling was the order of the day about two decades ago, no-ball was declared when the bowler's back foot landed outside the bowling crease. The ball became dead and there was no penalty attached to it.

□ Around 1811, the batsman was allowed to play a no-ball and score off it. He could only be run out. Amendment was made in the law allowing one-run for an unscored off no ball.

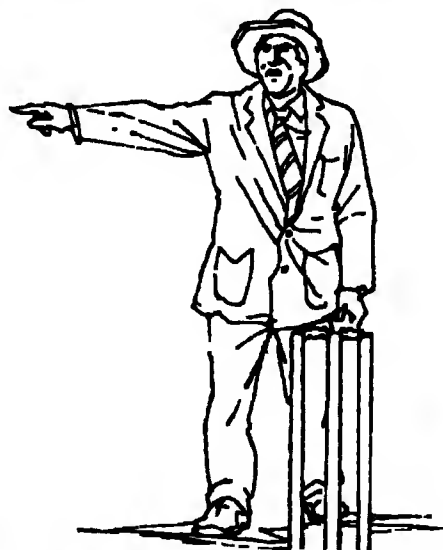
□ In 1835, bowling underwent a change in style. It was an important reform. Bowlers were allowed to raise the arm "to the shoulder level". The reformers, however, were not wholly satisfied with the change. They continued their campaign and in 1864 the MCC legalised the new style.

□ As this art of bowling gained momentum, fresh con-

troversies were born surrounding the new jerky bowling action. Many bowlers were penalised for unfair delivery. But some managed to get the umpires' approval, though their jerky action was as suspect as of many other bowlers.

□ In 1899, another important amendment was introduced allowing square-leg umpires to declare 'no ball', if the bowling action was not in accordance with the laws. Once in a County match, the square-leg umpire, Phillips, called Tyler for a throw. Walter Wright, standing at the bowler's end, refused to accept his colleague's verdict and he did not allow any extra ball to be bowled in the over. Connoisseurs of the game might still be debating what would have happened, if the batsman had been out off one of Phillips' no-balls?

□ This was not the first instance when two umpires disagreed on the matter of no ball. There



have also been instances when umpires have been guided by their own likes and dislikes and penalised certain bowlers for their 'suspect' action. The most amazing instance has been described by P. T. Thompson, the West Indies correspondent of the *Cricketer*. "As soon as Mobarak Ali was put in to bowl, the umpires started no-balling him, and it mattered little what type of balls he bowled. He bowled his leg-breaks, and the umpire 'called'. So finally he did an amazing thing. He started bowling under-arm creepers and the match was for a time reduced to a farce. In this riot of no balls, Sealy actually lost his wicket. Expecting yet another no-ball, he had a crack, was caught and then found the umpire had not called. Ali continued to bowl and eventually the no-balling ceased. Though he was probably quite right in a few of his decisions,

one cannot help but say that 'our umpire' did rather overdo things. Ali was no-balled 30 times, and something will have to be decided about his bowling before the next tournament comes round."

□ Here are some problems.

□ Q: Can a batsman object to a bowler finishing his run up on the danger area of the pitch?

□ A: The batsman will be well within his rights to point it out to the umpire,

who should caution the bowler. But, if the bowler persists the umpire will have to discuss the problem with the Captain and then take his final decision.

□ Q: A new batsman enters the ground when heavy rain interrupts play. Can another batsman be sent when the game resumes after some time or next morning?

□ A: No. The batsman's innings begins from the moment he steps inside the boundary. Hence another batsman will not be allowed to come.

□ Q: Can a bowler switch over from over to round, right to left and over-arm to under-arm in the same over?

□ A: Why not? But the bowler has to inform the umpire, who, in turn, will bring it to the notice of the batsman. This is mandatory.

□ Q: When a day is lost due to inclement weather, will a three-day match be regarded as such?

□ A: No. It will be regarded as a two-day match.

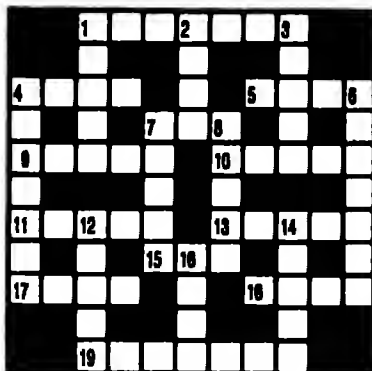


Illustration by Subrata Ganguly

# Crossword

MUDAR

155



## ACROSS

- 1 One of Argentina's young heroes of the '78 World Cup (1,6)
- 4 This Hill was no mountain but an Australian batsman (4)
- 5 Even the best of batsmen sometimes run out of this (4)
- 7 A Lever of cricket fame, initially (1, 1)
- 9 One of the moving figures behind the Bombay hockey World Cup has a beast of burden in between (5)
- 10 '---and Unders', a book by Greg Chappell (5)
- 11 Haslingden is—in Lancashire noted for cricket (1, 4)
- 13 Venue of the first Asian Games (5)
- 15 Italian soccer star begins with an R, ends with an I and has this in between (3)
- 17 Egoistic ending to the first name of an Indian cricketer, now retired (4)
- 18 First name of a cricketer who played for both, India and Pakistan (4)
- 19 A great heavyweight boxing champion ran errands for this Maha chief (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Tennis' Neville Cardus (5)
  - 2 This Malone has now retired from first-class cricket (4)
  - 3 A musical term for ascertaining cricketing proficiency (5)
  - 4 Ian Botham will probably become the greatest all-rounder of all time but never this, perhaps (7)
  - 6 Sixteen wickets on his Test debut (6, 1)
  - 7 Connors, informally (5)
  - 8 Cricket's holy of holes (5)
  - 12 This Washbrook made a Test comeback once but was out at 98, returns (5)
  - 14 Indian Ranji Trophy player is mainly constituted by an English batsman (5)
  - 16 A gripper on the cricket field is simplified to this (4)
- Excellent: 22-28, Good: 18-16, Fair: 17-18.

# Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

- Q J. Patre, Bhubaneswar.  
Q. What is the full form of C A B?  
A Cricket Association of Bengal  
Prabir Gaha, Chabua.
- Q. Who topped the batting and bowling averages in the 1961-62 Indo-Pakistan Test series?  
A. C G Borde of India headed the batting averages with 62.50 and in bowling department R G Nadkarni of India topped the averages with 24.33
- Q. How many centuries have Saeed Ahmed and Hanif Mohammad hit in Tests for Pakistan?  
A Saeed Ahmed has hit five centuries and Hanif Mohammad 12
- Akhtar Jamal, Dibrugarh
- Q What is Jack Noreiga's Test bowling record? What are his best bowling figures? In which year and against whom did he make his Test debut?  
A Noreiga has in four Tests for West Indies, bowled 1322 balls, 47 maiden overs, conceded 493 runs and captured 17 wickets at the average of 29. His best bowling performance was nine for 95 in the second Test against India at Port-of-Spain in 1970-71. He made his debut in the first Test against India at Kingston in 1970-71 and bid farewell to Test cricket in the fifth Test at Port-of-Spain of the same series.
- Ratan Kishore Tewary, Bhagalpur and Prabir Datta, Gauhati
- Q What is C P S Chauhan's full name and date of birth?  
A Chetan Pratap Singh Chauhan was born on 21 April, 1947
- S R Pandey, Bombay
- Q Why are the Australians also called Aussies?  
A. Aussies is the short form of Australians
- N S Vijayakumar, Ernakulam
- Q. Who was the first batsman in the history of Tests to hit 1000 runs in a calendar year?  
A Clem Hill of Australia, who made 1060 runs in 12 Tests in the calendar year of 1902
- Bishnu Saha, residence not mentioned.
- Q What are full names of Bradman,

Sobera and Thomeon?

A. Donald George Bradman, Garfield St Auburn Sobera and Jeffery Thomson are their respective full names

Abhijit Chatterjee, Calcutta.

Q. What is the highest fifth-wicket partnership in Tests?

A. 405 runs compiled by S G Barnes and D G Bradman of Australia against England at Sydney in 1946-47

Q What is Polly Umrigar's highest score in Tests?

A. 223 made against New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1955-56

Q. Against whom did Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi score his first Test century?

A. M A K Pataudi hit his first Test century of 103 runs against England at Madras in 1961-62

Kaushik Sarkar, Calcutta

Q. How many half centuries has Sunil Gavaskar scored in Tests? What is the record of most half centuries in Tests?

A Before going to England, Sunil Gavaskar had hit 30 half centuries in 75 Tests for India. Geoff Boycott of England holds the world record of hitting as many as 42 half centuries in 108 Tests for England

## Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

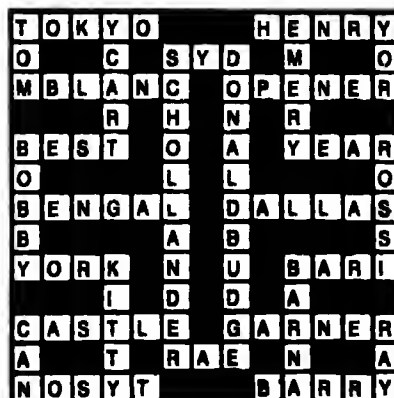
## QUESTIONS

- 1 Which World Cup soccer star was nicknamed Justo?
- 2 Which footballer scored four goals in his only World Cup appearance?
- 3 Which great footballer of the Seventies is conversant with five languages?
- 4 It is a common misconception that the Jules Rimet Trophy represents a fairy whereas actually it is a goddess. Could you name the goddess?
- 5 Name the jeweller who made the Jules Rimet Trophy
- 6 What is the height of the Jules Rimet Trophy?
- 7 How much does the Jules Rimet Trophy weigh?
- 8 The Jules Rimet Trophy represented a goddess. What does the FIFA World Cup depict?
- 9 Which jeweller made the FIFA World Cup?
- 10 What is the height of the FIFA Cup? What is its weight?

## ANSWERS

- 1 Just Fontaine (France)
- 2 Ernest Wilimowski (Poland) against Brazil in 1938
- 3 Johan Cruyff (Spanish, English, French, German and Italian)
- 4 It is winged Nike, the goddess of Victory in ancient Greek mythology
- 5 Abel Lafleur of Paris
- 6 30 cm
- 7 1,600 gm
- 8 It represents the globe resting on the outstretched arms of the athletes
- 9 Silvio Gazzaniga of Italy
- 10 36 cm, 5 kg

## SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 154





R. Shankar, Salem.

Q. Who is the first Indian bowler to perform a hat-trick in Tests? Who were the victims and how were they dismissed?

A. No Indian bowler has yet performed a hat-trick in Tests.

R. Rajendran, Palghat

Q. Which are the cups and trophies associated with the game of cricket in India?

A. They are Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, Irani Cup, Deodhar Trophy, Willis Trophy, C. K. Nayudu Trophy, Vijay Merchant Trophy, Vizzy Trophy, Rohinton Bana Trophy and the Cooch-Bihar Trophy. They are the trophies and cups which are awarded to the winners of the tournaments conducted by the Board.

## Bridge

Bruce Schapiro

Quotations are addictive. Last week I referred to the Duke of Wellington - this week I am reminded of Sherlock Holmes and the dog that did not bark in the night (*Silver Blaze*). Try this hand and see if you would play it correctly.

♠ K 8 7 4 2		
♥ 8 7		
♦ Q 8 7 3		
♣ 10 4		
♠ Q 5	♠ N	♠ 6
♥ A 5 4 2	♥ W	♥ Q J 10 9 6
♦ 5 2	♦ E	♦ K 10 9
♣ K Q 7 6 5	♣ S	♣ 9 8 3 2
♠ A J 10 9 3		
♥ K 3		
♦ A J 6 4		
♣ A J		

West dealt at game all and when the deal came up in match play both Souths opened one spade after three passes. West passed and one North jumped directly to four spades - a wild overbid with no great distributional assets and a limited point count. The other North, faced with the same problem, contented himself with a modest raise to two spades. However, South tried for the spade game by bidding three diamonds and North accepted his effort by going on to four spades. A very reasonable way to treat the hand, I would say. Well, how do you tackle the play after the lead of the King of clubs? The South with the aggressive partner fell short of his target. He drew trumps and exited with ♠ J to leave West on lead. It seemed a good idea, he reckoned, for surely any return would be to his advantage. Unfortunately it didn't work out like that. After some thought West got off play with a diamond and there was no way for declarer to prevent East getting the lead (sooner or later). Then a heart came through and it was all over. The other South (partnered by the more cautious North) played the hand more rationally. After drawing trumps he finessed ♦ J successfully and then cashed ♠ A before exiting with his losing club. I hope that you can follow his logic. If the diamond finesse had proved wrong then West, who had passed initially with ♠ K Q, ♠ Q and ♦ K could hardly hold ♠ A as well. The dog that did not bark in

Altab Alam, Buxar.

Q. What is the best ever partnership record for India?

A. 413 for the first wicket piled up by Vinoo Mankad and Pankaj Roy in the fifth Test against New Zealand at Madras in 1955-56 which is not only the best for India, but also in the entire Test cricket history.

Q. How many times in Tests has Gavaskar been dismissed for a duck?

A. Seven times in 75 Tests.

V. Hanumantha Rao, Hyderabad and Asis Nandy, Calcutta

Q. Could you please give the complete batting statistics of Sir Gary Sobers?

A. 93 Tests, 160 innings, 21 times not out, 8,032 runs, 365 not out as his highest score, 57.78 average, 26 centuries, 30 half centuries and 12 ducks.

the night!

As it happened, the King of diamonds did not fall under the Ace but West (put in with ♠ Q) was end-played - he was forced to concede a ruff and discard or lead hearts.

Last week's quiz. Having arranged to play transfer overcalls over 1 NT, you are surprised to hear your partner overcall an opponent's bid of 1 NT with one heart. He corrects his insufficient bid to two hearts. Fine, there have been no penalties incurred but I think that it would be unethical of you to pass rather than convert dutifully to two spades. By failing to do so you are taking advantage of having heard him bid one heart first. The trouble is that if he had changed his bid to two diamonds (showing hearts) you would, by law, be compelled to pass. Moral: If you propose making insufficient bids, don't play transfer overcalls!

This week's quiz. At love all you deal with ♠ A Q 10 5 2, ♥ Q 3, ♦ K 7, ♣ Q 6 4 3. You open one spade, your partner responds two hearts and you rebid two spades (2 NT would be considered as showing a slightly better hand). Now partner continues with three hearts - do you push on to four hearts, try 3 NT or subside?

## Chess

John Clarke

The International Chess Federation's latest rating list shows that the USSR is still very much the dominant nation. World Champion Karpov has moved up 30 thanks to his convincing performance against Korchnoi, and now stands at 2720, no less than 65 ahead of the next man, Jan Timman of The Netherlands, and there are eight of his colleagues also in the top twenty. Karpov, Spassky, Belyavsky, Petrosian, Tal, Polugayevsky, Balashov and Tseshevsky. Hungary, with Portisch and Ribli, is the only other country having more than one player rated at 2500 and above. The leading Briton is John Nunn, equal 18th with Hort, Kavalek and Ribli, a ranking which confirms that he has displaced Tony Miles as our No. 1. During the past 18 months Nunn has developed into a most formidable grandmaster, capable of beating anyone in the world and winning major

N. Ravi Sankar, Calcutta.

Q. Other than Gavaskar, who are the other Indian batsmen to score a century in both innings of a Test?

A. Vijay Hazare, who made 116 and 145 in the Adelaide Test against Australia in 1947-48.

R. K. Rewari, Bhagalpur

Q. What is D. R. Doshi's date of birth?

A. 22 December, 1947.

Pulak Chatterjee, South Guwahati.

Q. Who are the Indians to have won a place among Wisden's "Five Cricketers of the Year"?

A. Ranjitsinhji, Duleepsinhji, C. K. Nayudu, Iftikhar Ali Khan Pataudi, Vijay Merchant, Vinoo Mankad, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, B. S. Chandrasekhar and Sunil Gavaskar.

international tournaments

White: John Nunn; Black: Mikhail Tal, Sicilian Defence (Wyk aan Zee, 1982)

1 P - e4, P - e5; 2 e4 - e5, P - e4  
3 P - e4, P - e5; 4 e4 - e5, P - e4  
5 e4 - e5, P - e4; 6 P - e5, e - e4  
7 e - e2, e - e3; 8 e - e3, P - e3

Perhaps Tal was lulled into a false sense of security.

This move gives White a target on the K side.  
9 e4 - e3, e - e3; 10 P - e4, P - e3  
11 P - e4, e - e3; 12 P - e4, e - e3  
13 P - e4

Suddenly a full-scale assault gets going. Though it does not really break through it brings White a lasting spatial advantage.

13 P - e4, 14 P - e5, e - e2  
15 e - e3, P - e5; 16 e - e3, P - e4

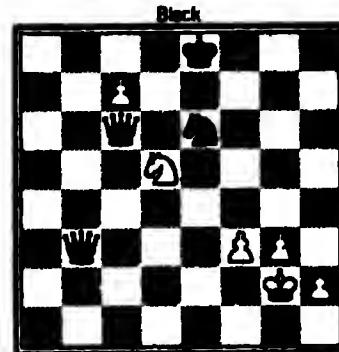
This pawn sacrifice for central counterplay is understandable, but 16 KR - K1 or 16 QR - Q1 could well have been tried first.

17 e4 - e3, e - e3; 18 e - e3, e - e3  
19 P - e5, e - e4; 20 e - e4, e - e5  
21 e - e4, e - e4; 22 e - e4, e - e4  
23 e - e4, e - e4; 24 e - e4, e - e4

Unfortunately for Black, the endgame does not afford him much relief from the pressure.

25 e - e5, e - e5; 26 e - e5, e - e5  
27 e - e5, e - e5; 28 e - e5, e - e5  
29 e - e5, e - e5; 30 e - e5, e - e5  
31 e - e5, e - e5; 32 e - e5, e - e5

Competition 6927. Solution next week.



White

White to play and win. Grade 3 (medium)

Solution to 6926 (Recreation - Rukhsh, 1973). (8/7p/6p/1P4r1/2P2B1/BBP2r1/6q1 - Black to play.) Two neat sacrifices did the trick. 47 Q - B7ch, 48 Q x Q R - R4ch, 49 e x R, P - K4 mate.


Problem No 1183. Solution next week.

C. S. Kipping (Western Morning News, 1928) (8/3R1p2/4R2w1/1R2BPP2/3N1P2/6q1/12B - 8 white men; 8 black.) White to play and mate in two moves.

Solution to No 1183 (Specimens). (8/4Pp2/2P2/4R2w1/1P2P4/6 - mate in two.) 1 R - K5 (zugzwang) (a) 1 P - B3, 2 R - Q4, P - B4, 3 P x P, P - K5, 4 P - B6ch, e - K4, 5 K x P, (b) 1 P - B4, 2 P x P, P - K5, 3 P - B6ch, e - K4, 4 R(K5) - K5, P x P, 5 R x R.



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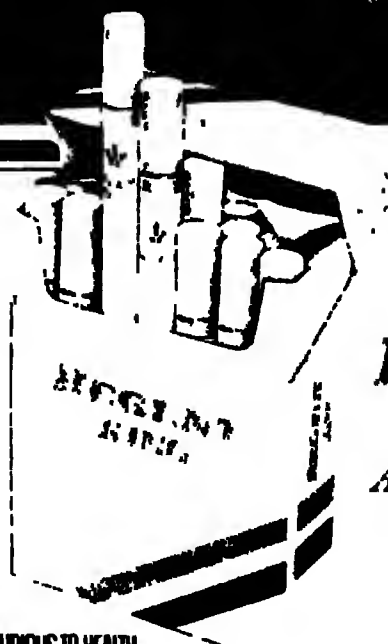
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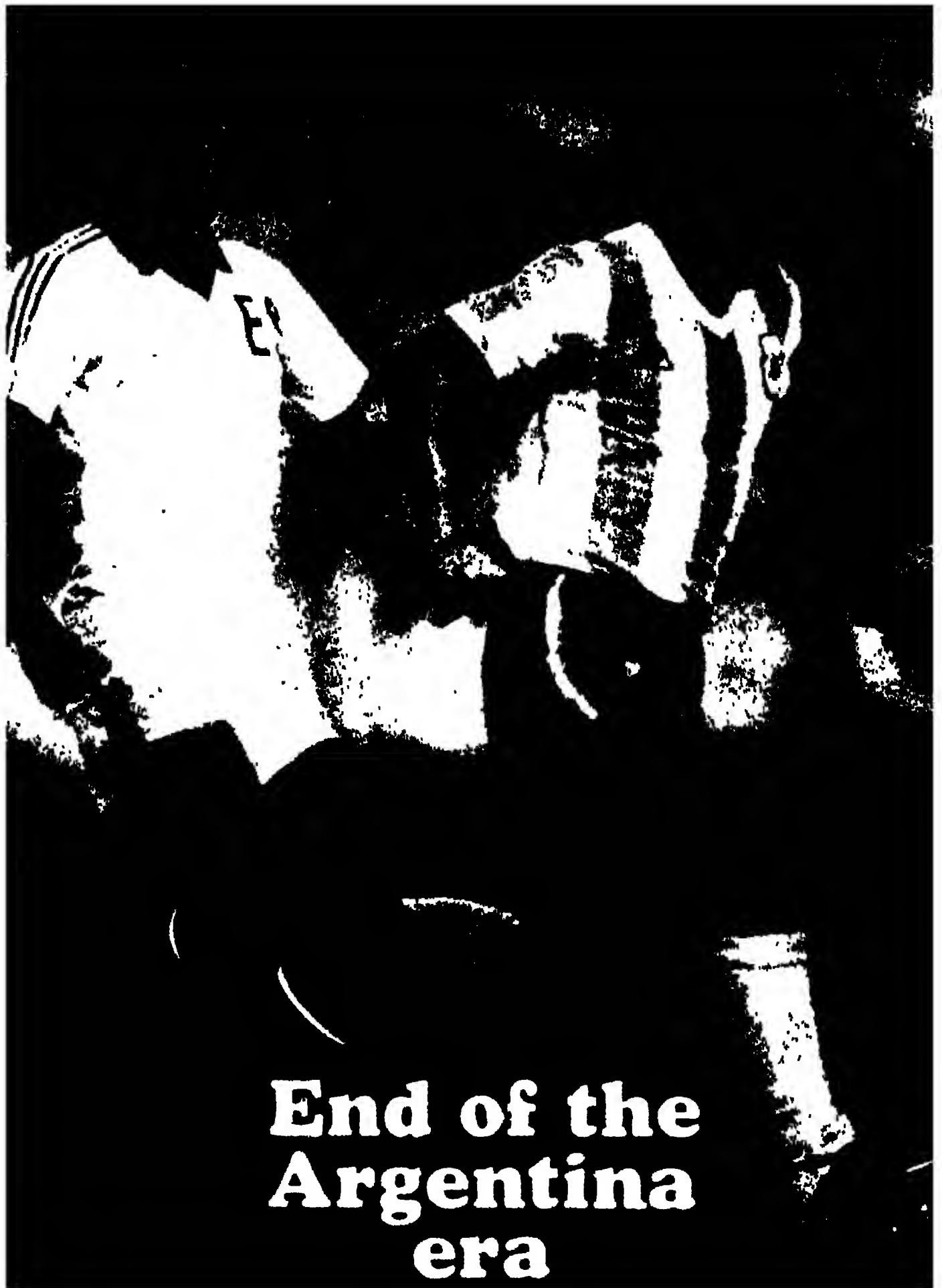


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# Sportsworld 28 JULY 1992

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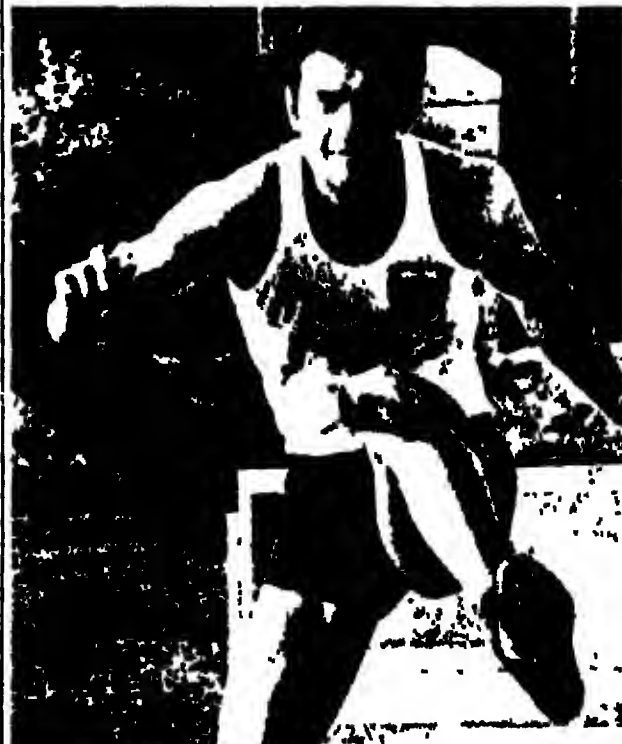
Associate Editor Arijit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sarkar Sarajit Deb  
Correspondent Bombay Harsh Munwar Madras Ashok Kamath  
Staff Photographer Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Art Director Bipul Guha

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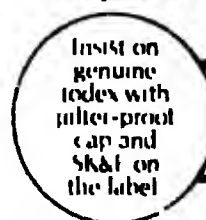


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## Letters to the Editor

### Unpredictable

IN the first test against England, Gavaskar suddenly took away the bowling from Madan Lal after he had bowled five overs and brought on Ravi Shastri in his place instead. At least he could have put on Dilip Doshi, who is a far better bowler and who can succeed to a greater extent in keeping the runs in check as well as the batsmen. Since the last English tour of India it seems that Madan Lal is on a quota system. He is never given more than five consecutive overs with the new ball.

It is becoming increasingly evident that Gavaskar is losing respect for the game which has given him his fame and bread. He constantly shuffles himself in the batting order and bats left handed when the mood takes him. As a result of his hesitations he is dearly paying on this current tour of England.

UDAY KUMAR  
Calcutta

### After an age again

JIMMY CONNORS, who won the men's singles title at Wimbledon in 1974, has won the tournament again after a gap of eight years. It would be interesting to know about other tennis players who have also won titles after such a long gap.

In the men's singles division, Bill Tilden who won the crown in 1920 and 1921 came back to win it again in 1930. Earlier, there had been an instance of Arthur Gore, champion in 1901, who won again in 1908 and 1909. Norman Brookes, too, who had won Wimbledon in 1907 had to wait seven years before he came to the front again in 1914.

In the women's singles, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, who won the title in 1971 came back to win again in

1980. Similarly, C. Cooper-Sterry, who had won the title in 1895, '96, '98 and 1901 had to wait till 1908 to lift the trophy again.

JAIMIN BHATT,  
Bombay

### Best Indian team

MY best Indian team is as follows: Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Merchant, Anil Wadekar, G. R. Vishwanath, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Farooq Engineer, Kapil Dev, Mohammed Nisar, I. A. S. Prasanna, Bishan Singh Bedi and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar.

VINU VAYAR,  
Calcutta

HOW would this Indian team be? According to the batting order: Vijay Merchant, Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Manjrekar, G. R. Vishwanath, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Vinoo Mankad, Kapil Dev, Farooq Engineer, Ram Lal Desai, Bishan Singh Bedi and B. S. Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: S. Madan Lal.

CHIRANJI HANIRJIL,  
Calcutta

AS per your invitation, here is my Indian team: Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Merchant, Vijay Hazare (captain), G. R. Vishwanath, Polly Umrigar, Vinoo Mankad, Kapil Dev, S. Kannan, Amar Singh, Bishan Singh Bedi and I. A. S. Prasanna. Twelfth man: Brijesh Patel.

ANIRBAN PAUL,  
Calcutta

### Final say

I DOUBT whether any team from any age and from any country can beat this team of mine on paper. Here it goes: S. M. Gavaskar, Rameshwar Prasad, Dilip Vengsarkar, Hemant Karkhanavala, A. L. Wadekar, Vijay Manjrekar, C. T. Patankar, Khanu Rangnekar, P. Shivalkar, D. D. Hindlekar and Dattu Phadkar. Twelfth man: Ghulam Parkar.

RAJESH SHOLA-PURKAR,  
Bombay



# The marketing of Gerry Cooney

**GEORGE K. GEORGE**, who has been following Gerry Cooney's career over the past four years, unfolds the saga of the mysterious New Yorker

*In recent years many boxers have earned millions by successful marketing strategies. The trend was set by Muhammad Ali, who pulled all the possible stunts he could, to attract the box office. He had talent, will and charisma. Some others like Larry Holmes, Ken Norton and Joe Frazier did it the hard way, by trading thousands of punches over the years. A few like Leon Spinks and Sugar Ray Leonard earned their title fights by winning the Olympic gold medals which brought them to public attention. But setting up an unknown and inexperienced local fighter for a 10 million dollar purse and a 50 million dollar fight almost overnight is a promotional miracle. Even the hot Ali-Frazier fight had only grossed 21 million. The marketing of Gerry Cooney surpasses even Sugar Ray Leonard's phenomenal promotion in box office.*

**THEY** sell real estate in the New York area and have two things in common: a love for boxing and eccentricity. People call them "The Wacko Twins." But Mike Jones (46) and Dennis Rapoport (36) have made history in another field, by packaging an unknown boxer from a New York suburb and selling him for 10 million dollars for his first major bout. Today, the world knows Gerry Cooney as much as any other boxing celebrity of the past few decades.

The irony is even more baffling when one looks at the recent covers of the leading magazines in America. *Time* featured Cooney with Sylvester Stallone, the hero of *Rocky III* on its cover. *Sports Illustrated*, the country's leading sports publication, assigned the front cover to Cooney and reserved the inside fold of the cover for undefeated champion, Larry Holmes. The list could go on if lesser known magazines and periodicals were included in the list. The packaging and marketing of Gerry Cooney has been one of the most astounding feats of modern sports promotion.



*Muhammad Ali, microphone in hand, ventures to say that Cooney would beat Holmes*

The story goes back to the small town of Huntington, New York. Gerald Anthony Cooney has his roots there, though he was born in the Brooklyn section of New York City. His parents, Tony and Eileen, moved to Huntington in 1958, two years after the boxer Cooney was born.

Tony, an ex-merchant mariner, was a construction worker. Gerry is very proud of the fact that his father belonged to the working class and for a while he did the same job before turning professional. He still is a member of the local structural steelworkers' union.

Gerry Cooney is the second of six children. His elder brother, Tony, was an amateur boxer, who reached the finals of 1973 Golden Gloves Tournament. A younger brother Michael manages a restaurant that Gerry opened in his locality. Stephen Eileen and Madeline work there in their spare time while Mrs Cooney is Gerry's secretary and advisor. She even appears with Gerry in a Norfolk electric shaver commercial. Thus, it is a very close family.

Tony Cooney made his children work hard at home and they had to learn all the household jobs and gardening. While other kids would be playing around, the Cooney boys would have to work at home for a while before joining the rest out side.

Tony himself had once cherished a dream to be a boxer. He had done some boxing when he was in the Marines but his ambition to be a professional fighter did not materialize. Thus, he wanted his sons to fulfil that dream for him and built a gymnasium in his house and made the boys work out daily. To make it come true he would wake them up early in the morning and work out with them over the weekends.

At 14, Gerry was sent to Huntington Gymnasium with brother Mike. Two years later, he was still a skinny, shy youngster of 6 feet 4 inches, weighing 160 pounds and with very little confidence in himself. But he was still addicted to the sport. "I loved boxing," he says. "When I had all those insecurities it made me feel like a somebody. People looked at me like I was special. That helped me to grow."

Gerry Cooney initially participated in the Golden Gloves competition at Madison Square Garden, New York and won the sub-novice title. At that time he also played in the school football team and was a fairly good wrestler too but his heart always remained in the ring.

Every morning Tony Cooney would wake up the boys at 5:30 and make them run three miles, running along with them. That he would follow by a series of exercises.

At 17, Gerry was sent to Queens Gymnasium in the city and Tony would accompany his son there almost every day. But Gerry found his father too demanding and one day he got so fed up that he asked him, "Whom do you want me to win for—for you or for me?" Tony Cooney did not have any words in reply. He just looked at his son in cold silence. In this day Gerry Cooney remembers that incident.

In 1974 the younger Cooney finished his schooling and moved from his parental home to the apartment of his older brother. He had started training at his own pace by then and by the following year, he had accumulated a 55-2 record as an

amateur. His most outstanding victim was the Soviet heavyweight champion, Nikolai Aksyonov, whom he knocked out at the Garden Four months later. He won the Golden Gloves finals at the same venue but unfortunately, his father was too sick to witness that triumph. Two months later, Tony died of lung cancer at 55.

Gerry Cooney's career was plunged into a crisis. He quit boxing and passed the chance of trying out for the Olympic boxing team. He took up construction work for a while but boxing was very much in his blood. He was determined to come back in a few months and he did.

This is where Jones and Dennis Rapport come into the story. They were real estate brokers working in the Long Island area with a mutual interest in boxing. They decided to go into boxing promotion together and signed the 1976 Olympic lightweight champion, Howard Davis, and negotiated a two million dollar deal from the CBS television network, an astronomical figure at that time.

The New York Press has tons of stories about the eccentric stunts of these two men. One of their clients, the 1968 Olympic lightweight champion, Ronnie Harris, could not get a fight. So they dressed up a fellow businessman in a gorilla outfit and let him loose in Madison Square Garden during a fight. Teddy Brenner, the matchmaker at the Garden, had to give them a fight to get them off his back. Harris did not get too far, but at least Davis got a title fight, which he lost.

It was at this point that they signed local boy Gerry Cooney in 1976, after two months of negotiations. They agreed to advance him 200 dollars a week against future earnings. They selected Victor Valle as his trainer, a fighter with a 46-1 record who had trained a few boxers since 1938.

Luckily an instant rapport was established between Cooney and Valle, the latter almost becoming a father figure to the young fighter. That was the beginning of the marketing of Gerry Cooney.

**C**OONEY had a few impressive ingredients. He was young, hungry and a big man with a vicious left hook. Sparring partner Joe Bugner says that he has the most devastating left hand since the prime of Joe Louis. At 6' 7" and 225 pounds, Cooney is a giant in every sense of the word.

But what has made Gerry Cooney a rare product in the boxing market is his colour—he is white. And he can still turn out to be the long awaited Great White Hope.

It has been quite a while since a white man has made his presence felt on the heavyweight boxing scene. In 1910, James J. Jeffries had come out of retirement to take on Jack Johnson. Rocky Marciano,

who retired the year Cooney was born, was the last white heavyweight champion from the United States. In 1959, Ingemar Johansson had taken away the title from Floyd Patterson for a year but no outstanding white man entered the heavyweight boxing arena since then. Fighters like Ron Stander and Chuck Wepner could not emerge even as serious contenders. Not that they lacked promotion or patronage. Talent itself was just not there.

The strategy of the co-managers was to build up Cooney as the undefeated white champion. The first part had to be manipulated. And the search for easy opponents began. Cooney's losses as an amateur came from the Davis brothers. Eddie Davis knocked him out in the second round in 1974 and a year later, brother John beat him points. But he had to compile a perfect record as a professional. Subtly Jones and Rapport managed to create a 25-0 score with 22 ko's for Cooney.

The rough sketch of Cooney's bouts ran like this: February 15, 1977 Cooney's professional debut with a first round knock-out against Bill Jackson. March 30 knock-out of Jose Rosario in the second round at Louisville, Ah's hometown. August 3 Outpoints Matt Robinson in round four without a knockdown. Then three more knockouts follow in 1977 and another six in 1978.

January 13, 1979 His toughest fight to date against Eddie (Animal) Lopez. Cooney won the eighth round decision after a close fight. June 29 knock-out of Leon Porter, the light heavyweight, who had lost an eight-round decision to Larry Holmes in 1976. But by the time Cooney fought him, Porter was no longer to reckon with as he had lost eight of his previous fights. August 22 Broderick Manson is floored for the first time in his career by a fourth round knock-out. October 19 Sixth round knock-out of Malik Dozier who was a last minute substitute for Terry Mimmis, who in turn was a last minute substitute for 'Smokey' Middleton. November 9 Cooney's first appearance at the Garden as a professional. The referee stopped the fight against Dino Dennis, who was always overrated. Though he had a career record of 35-2-1, he too had not fought too many tough opponents. Moreover, he was quite out of shape by the time he fought Cooney.

May 25, 1980 In Landover, Cooney took over Jimmy Young, who had lost a controversial decision against Ali and had surprised George Foreman. But he was also in poor shape by the time he faced Cooney and had lost four of the last seven bouts before their encounter. It was a fourth round knock-out. October 25 At the Nassau Coliseum, a major indoor arena near his hometown, Cooney fought Ron Lyle. But Lyle was only the shadow of the fighter he

was when he had faced Ali, Ernie Shavers and Foreman. With 11 seconds remaining in the first round, Cooney sent him to the ropes, spitting out his mouthpiece.

May 11, 1981. Back to the Garden. This time Ken Norton, who came out of retirement was in the other corner. It only took 54 seconds for Cooney to send him reeling. Referee Tony Perez who stopped the fight was to later say, "If I had let Gerry hit him a couple of more shots, it might have been fatal."

That was Gerry Cooney's track record before his championship bout with Larry Holmes. Quite dismal, one might say. Since May 25, 1980 Cooney had been in the ring for only a total of three minutes and 43 seconds against a 40-year-old and a 36-year-old. In his 25 bouts, Cooney had fought only 64 complete rounds and 22 in part.

Still, he was able to get a shot at the title against the undefeated defending champion on his own terms. Seldom has a challenger been paid the same amount as the defending champion.

That is where the marketing of Gerry Cooney worked. Jones and Rapport built their star by carefully planning his undefeated record. They tried to launch him as "Irish Gerry Cooney", appealing to the notions of a predominant white group in the country. It did not work. Cooney himself was not too happy about it either. But one cannot deny the racial implications of his success.

Larry Holmes is not altogether wrong when he says, "If Cooney wasn't white he'd be nothing." A black young man with the same talents and with a record like Cooney's would have been forced to fight a few more tougher battles to prove his worth before earning a shot at the world title. Now Jones and Rapport claim that "he's not the white man, he's the right man."

A year ago—even after destroying Ken Norton—Gerry Cooney was just a local hero. Very few people outside the New York area knew of him. But his managers have been able to sell him to mighty Don King and his protégé Holmes on their own terms. In fact, Cooney had the cheek to tell Holmes last year, "You need me more than I need you. Don't forget that."

The character of Gerry Cooney has also helped a lot in his marketing. He is a refined gentleman, acts and talks like a champion while essentially remaining a simple person. He still lives in the same apartment where he has lived since he began his fighting career and surprisingly still pays 327 dollars for his rent. Only recently did he buy a good car.

He is also proud of his middle class working background. "You know what I'd really like when I'm not boxing any more? I'd like to go back and work with them (the construc-



Both boxers Holmes (left) and Cooney pound each other.

tion workers he used to work with) on those buildings a couple of days a week."

Even after earning his first 10 million dollars, Gerry Cooney remains the same for his family and his friends. Hundreds of fans were at the John Kennedy International Airport to welcome him home after his loss to Holmes. It was such a rousing welcome that Gerry Cooney said with tears in his eyes, "I wish I could have won for you all." To him the heavyweight championship title is the greatest thing in the world. His only complaint about Larry Holmes was that the champion often failed to keep the image of his title. "I don't like the image he projects as champion of the world," says Cooney. "He sounds more like a street punk than the champion." But after the fight, Cooney gave due weightage to Holmes' abilities as a boxer.

While Jones and Rapport have built Cooney to a multi million dollar industry, some of their tactics are embarrassing. At the championship fight, Rapport would shout sentences like, "America needs you, Gerry. America needs you." "Do it for your dead father, do it for your dead father." "Remember the kid with Leukaemia." Rapport also carried a "Tick, Tick" sign to the ring corner.

Larry Holmes is probably right when he says that Cooney will do well in future, provided he drops Rapport. There are rumours that Ali's trainer Angelo Dundee may take over from Valle. That could give Cooney the experience he does not have. He has proved his calibre as a legitimate contender to the world title and has demonstrated his ability to take punches. All he has to do now is acquire more experience and outgrow his image as a one-handed fighter.

Before the fight against Holmes, Jones once explained his strategy. "There is an important mystique for a fighter in being unbeaten. Some managers might throw their fighters in over their heads too early to find out if they can fight. I knew it from the time I saw him beat a Russian with tons of experience, as an amateur. I knew he had guts, too. But I wanted him to gain confidence in himself as a professional."

But Jones was wrong about the last point. Cooney did not have enough confidence as he faced Holmes though he has now earned it the hard way. Though he is beaten, his mystique is greater than ever.

Still, one has to give credit to The Wacko Twins, for the most successful sale in modern sport.

# Faulty planning is our undoing

In an exclusive interview with SARAJIT DEB, the Indian football ace PRASUN BANERJEE recounts his experiences at the various Asiad preparatory camps held so far and assesses India's performances at the recent tournaments abroad

**SPORTSWORLD** Let us start from the beginning. During the Nationals at Cuttack, it was announced that the All India Football Federation would conduct a camp for the Asiad probables. What did you, as a player who has represented the country for quite some time, think of the idea?

**PRASUN BANERJEE** It was a welcome change. For the last few years we hardly had any chance to practise together before going out to play in a tournament. Thus, we used to go without knowing each other's game. So this time we got the opportunity to solve that problem. But the organisers made some mistakes.

**SW** Would you elucidate them?

**PB** Too many players were called up to the camp. If they had intentions to call so many players they should have started the camp immediately after the '78 Asian Games. If the camp had been conducted for four years a lot of new players could have been prepared. But since they decided to conduct the camp from February—about 20 months before the event—they should have called maximum 25 players. One set of senior established players and the other consisting of promising players who could be trained. This would have helped the coaches who could have started two camps simultaneously one for the seniors and the other for the juniors. And if it was found that any of the established players was lacking in stamina, skill or sustained any injury, a reserve would have been there to fill the gap. Thus there would have been a perfect combination of youth and experience, something absolutely necessary for a team.

**SW** After the exodus of the players from the Salt Lake camp, there were a few players left and some others were brought. They were promised that the players who had left the camp would not be taken back under any circumstances. In addition they were told that a team would be sent to Dacca and also to the President's Cup. But, subse-

quently both the trips were cancelled. As a senior player, do you think it affected the morale of the players, firstly, for the trips being cancelled and secondly they must have been aware of the fact that if the players were called back, they would not get a chance in the final team?

**PB** Yes, you are absolutely right. After the Calcutta players left the camp, those who stayed on were promised about those trips and subsequently they were cancelled. It did have a bad effect on them. What did they practise for? Obviously to secure a berth in the team for the two trips and thus established themselves fully. But, since those two trips were cancelled, they did not get that opportunity. About the second question I think that it must have always been on the minds of the players, and they must have felt unsure. To overcome this, the trips should have been on. It would have helped them get a feel of international standards.

**SW** For the Secunderabad camp, seven of those players were selected, you being one of them. What was it like there?

**PB** The camp was situated inside a cantonment area. All arrangements they made were fine. The board and lodging facilities were good but there were some problems. First and foremost, the ground. It was far from satisfactory. Good, systematic practice was not possible. The soil was very hard and dry with no grass at all. We used to have practice in two sessions, in the morning and evening, and they were quite tiresome, mainly because of the ground. The studs of the boots were damaged every now and then. Okay, we had extra pair of boots, but how many can a player carry? Three or four pair. But still we fell short because the studs were tendered useless every second day. And when we practised with those boots, we injured our nails. In the end, what happened was that the players could not perform well.

In addition, we faced another problem, that of lack of recreation. Most of us were from middle class families where the whole atmosphere is very free. We stay with our family, mix with our friends and are always very relaxed. But in the cantonment area, there were too many restrictions and this depressed us to some extent. And it psychologically affected our performance.

The idea of having residential camps is very good. The English and German players are usually coached in this way. But they are used to the set-up. If the camp had started after the last Asian Games in Bangkok, the players would have grown used to it and would not have felt so depressed.

**SW** Before the team left for the Merdeka tournament, it played two matches at Calcutta and one at Krishnanagar, but they could not perform well. What do you think were the reasons?

**PB** It is true that the team did not play well in those matches, but the way the spectators reacted, it seemed that the national team was a foreign side. We hardly received any support. In fact, we were hooded for our mistakes and this affected the morale of the team. Yes I admit only the weaker teams should be given such vocal support, but at the same time it must not be forgotten that we were the national team soon going to play in a tournament abroad, and we should have been encouraged.

**SW** What was it like at the Merdeka?

**PB** We played reasonably well considering the fact that it was the first tournament we were playing in after the camp. There were a few reasons for our partial success. It was after a long time that the players were kept together and had developed understanding amongst themselves. The players, coming from different provinces, can come close only if they stay together. They develop a tremendous team spirit, as it happens in players playing together for a club. Some people say that a player performs better for his club than for his country. I think the basic reason is that players of the same club, by spending a lot of time together, practising together and thereby knowing each other's strength and weaknesses can help their colleagues better.

There was another important reason. I had noticed that in previous tournaments the Indian team usually fights very hard for the first few minutes and then in the last 20 minutes, they suddenly get tired out. The main reason for this is lack of stamina. This is another front where we were sound at the Merdeka. Having done intensive training, the stamina of the players had improved to a considerable degree. And that was the main reason why we could fight till the very end.



The action at the Bangkok Asiad. Bidesh Bose is being chased by a Bangladesh defender. How will India fare at Delhi this November?

**SW** What were the deficiencies of the team?

**PB** In the Merdeka we played in the 4-3-3 formation. Mihir Bose and myself played in most of the matches and the third half was either Pariminder Singh or Harpinder Singh or Krishnendu Roy. We could not go on the offensive as often as we should have. Usually, we played with one winger on the left Bidesh Bose, and two strikers. The task of the players playing in the right half position, be it Mihir, Pariminder or Krishnendu was to go up and function as the right winger when the team was launching on attack. In this, we were only half successful. Sometimes they went up, sometimes they couldn't and thus in most cases the attackers were outnumbered by the rival defenders.

We had our reasons as to why we failed to go forward more often. We play in the 4-2-4 formation in the national tournaments. In this formation constant overlapping is not possible because we feed our forwards from the back. We play with one hookman constant—the defensive medio—and the other sometimes goes up. The players did not get the time and the opportunity to get used to the new system.

If this change had been implemented earlier, and at all levels,

the players would not have found things so difficult. Another thing we lacked was speed, a very essential thing in today's football.

But, what one should not forget is that we are not world class players who are capable of understanding moves quickly. I'll be frank and tell you that even after we practise a particular move many times, when the crucial moment comes, we can not utilise it properly. But that does not mean we are not trying. The coaches and the players are trying their best.

**SW** What about the trip to North Korea?

**PB** That was a very bad experience. Can you imagine that a national team was going abroad and the visas were not arranged? Would they have done so in the case of a cricket team? We were, frankly speaking, treated like prisoners at Moscow Airport, but I do not blame them. They were acting according to the law. I think if the papers cannot be prepared, a national team should not be sent at all.

Coming to the tournament proper, we left for North Korea the same evening we came back from the Merdeka tournament. The players were tired and after that came that experience at Moscow.

But I failed to understand what

was the point in sending a team for that kind of a tournament? There were two North Korean sides and a second string Chinese team. The trip did not help the players at all. I think with the same amount of money the team could have been sent to the Middle East or Europe and that would have helped the team considerably.

**SW** This was followed by the trip to the UAE. Here a lot of new players were tried.

**PB** Yes, but I fail to understand why so many new players were selected. It would have been better had they brought a second team. What was the point in taking all the players and then discarding them from the camp? If the same team had been sent, it would have gained more experience.

**SW** But performances in the King's Cup was bad. It seemed whatever the team had achieved at the Merdeka it forgot during the King's Cup and we were back to square one.

**PB** We went to play in that tournament with a lot of injuries. It is true that we had accepted the invitation some time back, but that did not mean the team had to go to play with so many injured players. Even Bidesh Bose had to play as a left back. We lost 0-6 to a South Korean team and some people blamed certain players. It was pointless the whole team failed and there's no point in blaming anyone in particular.

**SW** Don't you think that the preparation for the Nehru Gold Cup was adequate?

**PB** During the Trichur Nationals some of the players were called up to the camp which took place at Trichur itself. From the nationals a lot of players were selected and the final round of practice was held at Calcutta for just a week. So, in that way you can say it was inadequate, especially when you consider the fact that the tournament was being held in our country and was planned a long time back.

**SW** What do you think about the performance of the Indian team in the Nehru Gold Cup?

**PB** Before the tournament we thought that we would lose all the matches by big margins because all the foreign teams were better than us. But, we also knew that we had the advantage of playing at home. I think during the Nehru Gold Cup we reached our peak (since the starting of the camp). As I have already mentioned, we had some problems during the Merdeka when the halves were only able to go up only on occasions. During the Nehru Gold Cup, I would say that we improved on this aspect by at least 30 per cent. And that is why the halves were able to score some goals. What used to happen before was that the players lacked international experience and that was why we could not assess the weaknesses of the opponent teams.



# Wimbledon '82: Stars and stripes

The 105th All-England Championships were once again dominated by the Americans. Rain could not dampen the spirit—the tournament went on.

GEORGE K. GEORGE reports from New York

ONCE again it was a proud July 4 for the Americans. Like last year, two of their own lifted the crowns at Wimbledon. Though the titles changed hands, they will remain in the United States for another year. Unlike the previous year, the U.S.A. had the pleasure of presenting two winners and four champions in the final round—the dethroned title holders, John McEnroe and Chris Evert Lloyd and the champions, Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova.

The victory of Connors delighted most of the Americans on the whole as the tennis-loving public wanted Connors to win, but were skeptical about it, especially after Connors

went down unexpectedly in the quarter finals of the French Open. And what the public wanted was a just reward for Connors. The man had given too much to professional tennis and had received much less in return. It is impossible to believe that he had not won a single Grand Slam event for the past four years and yet his presence in the tennis world was so dominating that a tournament final between Borg and McEnroe looked incomplete without a semi-final bout involving Connors.

Neil Amdur of New York, one of the world's leading tennis critics, wrote "For the 29-year-old Connors seeded second behind McEnroe, vic-

tory was vindication. It was his first victory in a Grand Slam singles event since the 1978 U.S. Open and it came at a time when many had questioned whether Connors had lost the fire that could bring him another championship."

Over the past few months, Connors had been promising that, for his own sake and for the people who love his game, he was pretty close to it at Paris but his heart was set on two titles—the Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. He has now won the first and if he can pump himself as he did in the fourth set tie-breaker and the fifth set of the Wimbledon final, Connors may go on to win the title he covets most.

There was a major change in Connors this year. He was reborn, not just in his on-court manners, but in the style of his game. For years, senior players like Arthur Ashe had been admonishing and beseeching him to change his style a bit but he couldn't. Finally, he resorted to a change and played a serve and volley game throughout the tournament. The difference was remarkable, the results refreshing.

And for that he has to be grateful to John McEnroe to some extent. It was McEnroe, who exposed Connors' weakness at Wimbledon, when he pointed out last year that he was playing 'clay court tennis' on grass against Bjorn Borg in the semi-finals. In spite of the change in strategy, his basic style remained the same. He threw himself at the ball mercilessly and gave it everything he had.

He was also in fine form both mentally and physically. Former champion John Newcombe wrote in the beginning of the tournament "Jimmy Connors strikes me as a finely tuned thoroughbred, peaked to perfection and ready to charge down the stretch. I have never seen the 29-year-old so relaxed and confident at a Wimbledon championship. And that includes 1974, when he won the tournament."

There is, however, another change in Connors. He does not allow bad calls to turn the tides on him but he just lets them go and keeps pushing hard. When he was awarded a rather unfair warning, he looked at the umpire and said "Thank you very much," and carried on as if he had



Connors has long since turned over a new leaf. He makes his racket do the talking and displays admirable guts and power in winning matches.



just won a point. But one thing will not change. "When I come to play, I am going to give my best," he said, after the semi-finals. "You can't ask for more. That part of me will never change."

It is unfair to say that Connors won only because of the absence of Borg and Ivan Lendl. Even if Borg had been allowed to participate at Wimbledon this year, he just could not have produced the desire and touch necessary for recapturing the title. Lendl, too, has seldom won on grass and never over Connors.

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA, who has been reborn herself, too, was also expected to win as she was the number one seed with an incredible record during the year. Not winning has been the greatest threat against her. She was expected to win the U.S. Open final last year but lost to Tracy Austin in the third set tie breaker after an impressive initial lead. The same happened at the last Avon Championships in New York too. She led handsomely against Sylvia Hanika, lost and blemished her otherwise perfect record of 1982. She almost did the same against Chris Evert Lloyd in the final. Evert somehow lacked the extra bit which she had produced last year and after asserting herself in the second set, she just packed up.

JOHN MCENROE was a winner in his own way, though he lost the singles and the doubles crowns this year. For him the challenge was no more to win the Wimbledon or the number one ranking. He had to prove that he could behave and this he did the hard way—at the cost of his titles. In spite of a fine in his match against Tim Mayotte, he did conduct himself with a semblance of decency and Wimbledon acknowledged his conversion by giving him the trophies that were withheld last year. They also granted him the membership of the All England Club. But he did not attend the Champions Dinner saying that it was only for the champions.

Another reason for McEnroe's failure was that he was not in perfect physical condition. According to the experts, he was expected to retain his singles crown, but was expected to lose the doubles to Kevin Curran and Steve Denton. After his loss in the final it was obvious that he was not going to retain the doubles crown. He had lost it all in that tie breaker of the fourth set of his singles game.

America does not hate McEnroe but the public just wanted Connors to win. The thinking was that the former had plenty of time to do it again. Last year, most of the Americans had rooted for Bjorn Borg but this year, even if they had met in the final, more people would have supported McEnroe. After the 1981 Wimbledon America has got to know the kid better. He has fought many a

battle for his country in the Davis Cup and won it. Even at the Wimbledon final he wore the U.S. Davis Cup team jacket and surprising as it may seem, the nation is proud of him for his behaviour at Wimbledon.

THIS year's Wimbledon also marked the rejuvenation of the 38-year-old Billie Jean King, who became the second oldest woman to reach the semi-finals of the tournament. She was the biggest surprise of

the tournament but still America did not want her to beat dear Chris Evert.

There are two players whom the United States would have loved to do better—Tracy Austin and little Kathy Rinaldi. The former was not expected to win the title, but her loss to Billie Jean was disappointing, in spite of her lack of physical fitness. Andrea Jaeger's early exit was not quite unexpected. Fifteen-year-old

Billie Jean King, the Grand Old Lady of Wimbledon





It was a bad Wimbledon for John McEnroe

Rinaldi, who lost the momentum after a big sting her in her match against Pam Shriver, was a picture of grace and elegance even in defeat.

The two surprise semifinalists of the tournament came from the United States: Bettina Bunge and Tim Mayotte. Very few woman players are as underestimated as Bunge. A German by birth, she lived in South America before migrating to the United States. Her main disadvantage may be that she is not known to be a tennis professional and is also low key in her behavior and mannerisms. Though she lost to Miss Navratilova in the semifinal, she finally won the recognition she deserves. Tim Mayotte, the unexpected quarterfinalist of last year, was once again underrated by the press. But by beating Brian Teacher in a thrilling five-setter and facing McEnroe in the semis, the 1981 All American Varsity champion kept up the tradition of an unexpected semifinalist in the men's division.

The promising players from America also did extremely well in the tournament. Brian Teacher and Gene Meyer finally gave ample demonstrations of their abilities. Chip Hooper's knocking out of Peter McNamara was impressive and awe some. Lloyd Broune outlasted the Nastase before howling to former college teammate McEnroe. Both the black youngsters, Hopper and Broune, are talented competitors with good looks and popular dispositions. Hopper, the toughest server in the game today (150 miles per hour), was so impressive in the early rounds that Arthur Ashe was contemplating the possibility of drafting him in to the U.S. Davis Cup team right away.

Zina Garrison, 18, another black youngster, drew immediate attention by knocking out enigmatic Evonne Coolidge in her first match. Like Kathy Rinaldi, she was the favorite of the crowd at Wimbledon and reminds one of young Coolidge herself with her fluent,

strong and fast shots all over the court. Her exploits stole some attention from the other giant-killers. Candy Reynolds swept aside last year's runner up Hana Mandlikova while Joanne Russell eliminated Mima Jausavec.

It was widely felt by most of the tennis experts that Evonne Cawley should not have been seeded at all. Instead, young Kathy Rinaldi should have been granted that distinction. Rinaldi won her last round match with grace and poise and the maturity and elegance that she has acquired over the years seemed to strike everyone as remarkable.

Barbara Potter, who lost to Chris Evert in the quarters, was another impressive performer. Few players have the degree of enthusiasm that she has for the game and like Bettina Bunge, has been underrated even in her own country. Anne Smith, predominantly a doubles player, also continued her improved singles performance at Wimbledon.

The biggest disappointment for the Americans in this year's Wimbledon was without doubt, Vitas Gerulaitis. Had he lost in one of the earlier rounds, the fans would not have been so let down. His brilliant efforts and dedication then gave them the hope of an all American semifinal but his loss to Australia's Mark Edmondson deprived the world of what could have been the most spirited encounter of the tournament. Connors and he, had they met, would have been perfect foils for each other.

Last year the Americans had swept away all the titles except the mixed doubles and then had peace once Day. This year the spoils were distributed more evenly in the doubles events. Peter McNamara and Paul McNamee reclaimed the doubles by unseating the American duo of Fleming and McEnroe. The rain delays had hindered McEnroe to play a host of matches in the last three days and that was held out as the reason for their defeat.

Barbara Potter and Sharon Walsh were top rated in the women's doubles event. But Navratilova and Pam Shriver provided a mild surprise by beating another American pair, Kathy Jordan and Anne Smith to make it complete for Navratilova. But the mixed doubles went to Kevin Curren of South Africa and Anne Smith who played their fourth consecutive match on the final day to beat Chris Lloyd's husband, John, and veteran Wendy Turnbull of Australia.

Except for the men's doubles, part of the mixed doubles and Mark Edmondson's semifinal appearance, the show was monopolized by the Americans. Once again, the British remained the landlords of Wimbledon while the Americans stole the show without controversies and conflicts.

# End of Argentina era

**P. K. BANERJEE and ARIJIT SEN report on  
the final and semi-finals from Madrid**

**S**O one more World Cup is over. The cacophony in the stands will no longer disturb the serious viewer, nor will the weeping on the streets attract curious passers-by. Madrid will revert back to its other tourist attractions and its monetary transactions, which is what a capital is all about here in Spain. But aficionados will not forget the tensions, excitement and the fervour with which football is followed the world over, particularly in Europe and Latin America, from all parts of which a total of 50,000 people came to see football's greatest show.

Italy won the glittering gold cup from King Carlos and then 20,000 supporters, but spectators will never forget that Brazil was the best in terms of football skill and innovative attack. Their brand of soccer delights the senses. One really wishes, the whole world played their game. Germany deserved to lose, because, like England, they have no individualistic flair, which is essential to

lift a team from just efficient to really good. But not France, who in the later stages, came up with some delightful play. Platini and Rocheteau being the torch bearers of that brand of soccer. One also remembers the plucky teams like Cameroon and El Salvador and Algeria, as also the bad luck of the Scots who, in our opinion, were a better side than the vaunted England.

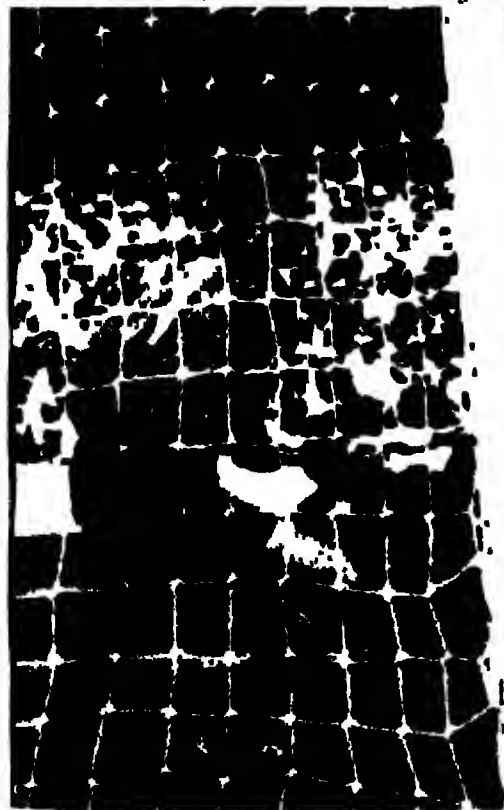
The tournament provided the world with first hand knowledge of the path the game is taking in 1982. The basis of the game in Europe is defence. This was exemplified by the Italians, who won only because they were fastest off the mark in attack. But the others in the continent lacked that speed and so could not really match them. The Latin Americans played far more positive soccer, willing and able to keep the ball in the other's half for long stretches, despite the fact that by doing so, they always exposed their own goal. What

they had was individual class, which allowed them to innovate all along a game. The other noticeable factor was the ability to kick hard and true. Although several goals were missed, one never failed to notice how powerful the shots at goal were, even from 35 to 40 yards out.

But this tournament of champions is no different from the most modest of competitions—the team that scores, wins. Here, in addition to skill and craft, one needed luck to get through. While this proved the stumbling block for all the other teams, it won everything for Enzo Bearzot and his men.

THE pressure of a final has ill-effects on all players and it was no surprise that the twelfth World Cup did not reach great heights. Moreover, West Germany had not fully recovered from their emotion charged semi-final against France while the Italians had a string of gruelling matches against Argentina, Brazil and Poland.

*Paolo Rossi of Italy (20) scores his team's first goal beating Poland's custodian Jozef Mlynarczyk (extreme left) during the semi-final*



# Sidelights

## WORLD CUP

### National calamity

**N**ATIONAL reaction to failure in the World Cup has been intense. But for the Spanish nation it has been more of a calamity than for Brazil. Over 13,000 fans had swarmed the pensions, residencias and hotels of Spain moving with the team from city to city and drumming and singing their praises. They and the rest of the spectators believed that Brazil would win the Cup easily. But that was not to be. The day Brazil lost to Italy, the drums stopped beating. The reaction back home was equally sad, and the situation extremely embarrassing for the authorities, who had scheduled holidays on the days Brazil were to play in the semi-final and final.

### Best market place

**T**HE World Cup is the best market place for buying players. And, with the introduction of 24 teams, the choice has widened considerably for professional clubs in Europe. Poland's defender and captain, Wladyslaw Zmuda has got a transfer to Italy's Verona. For 300,000 dollars, he will be shifting from Widzen Lodz. Before him, however, Zbigniew Boniek had signed for Juventus for a record Polish fee of one mil-

lion five hundred thousand dollars. We will now be hearing about players from Cameroon and Algeria coming to Europe.

### Proved wrong

**T**HIS World Cup, more than any other, has shown up astrologers as nothing more than quacks. Soothsayers whose calculations do not reflect reality and are obviously based on teams, rather than individual players who make up teams, naturally, all calculations went awry.

First to fall by the wayside was a Peruvian who is very respected in his country. The man said quite confidently that Peru would reach at least the second round of the competition. But Peru were ousted in the first but the astrologer was an honest broker. In order to

atone for this, he shaved his head and paraded the streets of Lima of his own accord. Another person who sought publicity in this sphere was Thailand's leading lady astrologer. According to her, Brazil and West Germany would reach the final and the former would win 3-1. She stumbled in the second stage itself as Brazil were beaten by West Germany, so was a Soviet computer. Of course it was wrong about Brazil saying the South Americans would win 1-0. This, by missing so many chances of scoring, Brazil proved both man and machine wrong.

### Bonus

**N**ORTHERN IRELAND, however, have had a bonanza, they were the unlikely second rounders and as such whatever they got was a bonus.

ultimately, apart from the players' profits. The Northern Ireland FA reaped a harvest of 500,000 dollars, which will help the association to initiate several developmental programmes.

### Not empty-handed

**W**HEN England drew with Spain, they went home a lot lighter. The unused provisions in their lorry included 120 training kits, eight sets of playing kits for each player, thirty footballs, two gross studs and laces, 144 packets of breakfast cereals, 36 bottles of brown sauce and, yes, 1200 packets of chewing gum. England had been insured for 22 million pounds back home. This included cover for any terrorist activity concerning the Falklands. The players were insured for a total of 18.5 million pounds and the manager Ron Greenwood and others for 1.5 million pounds.

### Tailpiece

**A**MONG the list of dignitaries who attended the World Cup was former U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, this was a hat-trick of World Cups for him, for he had attended the last two. But even he was wrong when he had said either Brazil or Spain would win. Both were knocked out in the second rounds.

Every drop fights scalp dryness

# Vaseline

## HAIR TONIC

### AND SCALP CONDITIONER





The all-important goal in the semi-final between West Germany and France being scored by the former's substitute player Horst Hrubesch (left)

The Germans started confidently at the Barnibeau Stadium and it took the Italians a dozen minutes to find their bearings. Just one minute after the final had got under way Fischer passed the ball to Littbarski. The latter could not beat the French custodian, thereby wasting a German half-chance. Breitner, the only German in the side with the experience of the 1974 World Cup behind him, forwarded a beautiful cross to Rummenigge. The German skipper swivelled on his feet, albeit in a hurry, and another opportunity went begging. Italian Beigomi, wearing the number three jersey, was the first to have a shot at the German goal. But his 25 yard shot curved away.

Enzo Bearzot's men soon began to have a major share of the exchanges. Halfway through the first half, Cabrini centred the ball into the German penalty area. The entire German defence was beaten and Briegel, fully aware of the danger of the situation, brought Conti down. Brazilian referee Coelho had no hesitation to award a penalty in favour of the Italians. An over-confident Cabrini took the penalty kick and shot wide off the left post. Cabrini now has the none-too-honourable distinction of becoming the first person to miss a penalty in a World Cup final. He started his run up for the kick from a very acute angle, thus giving Schumacher the opportunity of sensing that the ball was going to be kicked on his left. Seeing the German goalkeeper moving to the left, Cabrini attempted to make his kick go to

a finer angle. The Italians had wasted a golden opportunity of forging ahead and one wondered whether they would still manage to hold themselves together.

In the 38th minute, a determined German raid resulted in a Briegel header ricochet off the hard working Gentile for an abortive corner.

In the second half, it was the tireless Gentile who once again put the ball into the German penalty area. It was a very deceptive kick. As the ball hovered in the box, Rossi, the opportunist, headed in and became the highest scorer (six goals) of the twelfth World Cup.

In an exemplary display of courage, the German goalkeeper, Schumacher, rushed yards out of his penalty area to foil Rossi next to the corner flag. The custodian got the ball under control from the Italian striker without using his hands and averted a dangerous situation.

Twentyfour minutes into the second half, Scirea and Orsini in a perfect display of passing—they touched the ball alternately as many as 12 times—brought the ball deep into German territory. They held on to the ball for a slightly long time waiting for one of their players to position himself at the top of the penalty box. Tardelli was the man who obliged and immediately dispatched a stiff grounder which beat a diving Schumacher. The ball hit the inside of the post before entering the net.

The Germans so very well known for their do-or-die bids did not give in and fought till the very end. They

had a piece of consolation when they scored from a Breitner free-kick. The Germans pressed a little during the closing stages but without positive results and Italy had earned the cup, they last won in 1938.

As many as 33 fouls were given by the Brazilian referee. Seventeen of these were against Germany and sixteen against the Italians who, many people thought, were the rougher side on this day. The Germans earned five corners in the match and the Italians only two. The referee—and rightly so—ignored many minor infringements as most of the players indulged in acting. Nevertheless, referee Coelho booked Orsini and Conti of Italy and the Germans Dremmler and Stielike. Both the teams played with liberos—the Italians using Scirea and Stielike doing the job for the Germans. The man of the match was awarded to the Italian Marco Tardelli.

The sad look of resignation on the face of German skipper Karl-Heinz Rummenigge as he was substituted summed up the dejection in the German camp. For the Italians it was an unforgettable victory, a culmination of Enzo Bearzot's five-year battle to reach the top.

ITALY and West Germany are the two flag-bearers of European football and they have proved it again in the 1982 World Cup tourney but, while Italy certainly merited their victory, West Germany came through by the skin of their teeth and had the French penalty specialists to thank. Looking back over the years, it has been Italy who have

**WORLD CUP**



# MATCH OF THE WEEK

**T**HE French had put up a sterling performance in the second round of the World Cup. They pipped Austria by a solitary goal and then put paid to the hopes of Northern Ireland with a bloodless 4-1 victory. All this prompted one to give them a very good chance to put it across West Germany in the semi-finals. The French played their heart out with the desire to attack at all times of the match. In the final outcome, it was tenacity and the ability to fight till the very end which made the Germans emerge the winners.

France had their best opportunity to make their maiden appearance in a World Cup final and only have themselves to blame for ending up fourth best in Spain. The white-shirted Germans broke the ice in the 17th minute when Littbarski scored after French goalkeeper Litton failed to make a clean save of a Klaus Fischer attempt. Ten minutes later, Bernd Foerster committed a deliberate foul on Rocheteau inside the box and Platini made no mistake from the penalty spot. The French restored parity, and skipper Platini egged his players on. The second session did not change the score sheet and extra time had to be

resorted to. And by jove, what a memorable 30 minutes this was!

The French were rattled after Europe's Footballer of the Year Karlheinz Rummenigge was brought on when the Germans were down by two goals. The calculated German gamble of playing their captain who had a strained thigh muscle paid off. The Rummenigge magic had worked. The Germans were on level terms, the French dumbfounded, and for the first time in a World Cup the tie-breaker enforced. The French squandered the initiative in the tie-breaker after going into a 3-2 lead and the Germans were not going to slip up this time. One hundred and twenty minutes of football plus the tie-breaker and the two European teams had scored seven goals apiece. France went down in the sudden death but there were many who felt that the German goalkeeper Schumacher had moved before Maxime Bossis took the penalty. I watched the slow motion replay on television and there was no two ways about it—the French were the victims of poor supervision. Nevertheless, one cannot help but praise the German players and their shrewd coach Jupp Derwall for

coming back from a hopeless position to enter the World Cup final.

With the crowd behind them Alain Giresse put the French a goal ahead in the first few minutes of extra-time. To add to Germany's problems Tressor scored a wonderful goal. Even the most loyal German supporter could not have been very optimistic about a German recovery. In the second half of extra-time, the story was different with Rummenigge and then Fischer making the scorecard read 3-3. The French seemed to have lost their rhythm and one would not have been sur-

Klaus Fischer



prised if the Germans, at this stage of the match, went a goal ahead.

Rummenigge's inclusion during extra-time gave a lot more striking power to the attack and the skipper established German superiority also in the mid-field. The French, however, had very fluid movements throughout the match and, one feels, with the exception of the Brazilians were the best touch players in the tournament. Even the likes of Breitner, Fischer and Muller in the German defence could not dislodge the French artistry. Michel Hidalgo's men only have themselves to blame for not converting their territorial advantage into a goal-scoring one. The Germans need to be admired for their guts and tenacity which saw them through this cliff-hanger. One must not forget that another reason for the German success was the fact that they were taller and heavier than the slightly-built French. All said and done, there were many who were really sorry that this ever-popular French team which came within the proverbial whisker of entering the World Cup final, had to be one among the many 'also-rans'.



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**CARBIDE**





West German Manager Jupp Derwall encourages his boys—futile efforts

## The set-piece situation

**T**HE World Cup has brought up one very important aspect of the game which Indians will do well to learn. This is called the set-piece situation, where hours of daily practice brings perfection in the air of beating the opposition through decent. Take the case of a freekick from well outside the penalty area. While in India, one has seen just two or three variations in taking this, the World Cup showed several countries doing wonders with it. A direct kick would also not be taken directly, if the opposition expected it. There could be a pass to someone standing square or in front, or a lob behind the defence wall or even a move involving up to four players—all obviously knowing what they were to do before the final shot at goal was taken. This could involve several dummy runs by players other than the four participating in the move.

The corner kick was another situation which could be used to

great advantage, as long as several alternative were found. Even such an apparently innocuous thing as the throw anywhere near the opposing penalty area could be utilised to catch the defence on the wrong foot. These arts were perfected by the Europeans and the Latin Americans, though the Europeans came up with more variations. That is, with the exception of Brazil. Whereas every team studied video tapes of their opponents to discover the variations they used, none of them could really predict what the Brazilians would do. In a long tournament like the World Cup, there is the possibility of the opposition finding out the various alternatives used by a particular team. That is why the Brazilians could be termed the best, because they hardly ever repeated a set-piece manoeuvre. They didn't need to. All the players barring Serginho, were so good that they could change an apparent move at the last split second

done most for European football, but in the post-War years, West Germany have also done yeomen service to the game in the continent.

Italy were the only side to beat Argentina in the 1978 World Cup and have continued to dominate over all the South Americans since. In Argentina Paolo Rossi used to move from wing to wing, but now he has matured into an even finer player and can move from the wing to the centre. He has had a chequered career but he has never blazed a greater trail than he is doing in Spain. He was instrumental in beating Poland in the semi-final in Barcelona. The Poles started the match confidently and attacked in the first two minutes. But, thereafter, it was Italy who really called the shots. The first time they struck was in the 22nd minute when Polish left back Stefan Majewski appeared to have fouled Bruno Conti in a mid-air collision. But it seemed a doubtful decision to say the least. Giancarlo Antognoni floated the ball into the penalty area near the six yard box. Nbu, the Polish goalkeeper, did not come out, which allowed three Italians to swoop in. Among them it was Rossi who connected. Italy had been attacking quite well even before but Graziani and others wasted opportunities to score. The closest Poland came to scoring was in the 12th minute when Lato took a 45 degree turn before taking a shot which went wide.

The Italians were going great guns while Poland were beginning to feel the heat. Late in the first half, Ciolek and Skorobowski made two good attempts but they were foiled by Dino Zoff, the veteran Italian goalkeeper.

The Poles were playing without their star forward and the best bet against an ultra defensive side like Italy --Zbigniew Boniek, who had earned a suspension of one game by earning a booking twice in previous matches. Even so, they made a valiant attempt throughout the match to restore parity. But Italy made 16 attempts at scoring and managed to keep complete control of the midfield. Marino Tardelli and Cabrini were superbly manning the area. Marino particularly was impressive. In the 30th minute, he took the ball from Conti and moved up dribbling two players to keep to get a very good chance at scoring himself. But he missed the target.

Paolo Rossi was brought down six times and by half time Poland looked a beaten side, mainly because of the gruelling 100 degree temperature. But they fought gamely on until the 72nd minute, always hoping that an equaliser would come. But their finish was not good. Whenever they came up the entire Italian line-up was in their own area, including Rossi, who was defending quite well. Poland earned two corners and one

# Man of the week

"IT is hard to believe a dumboheaded Pelé. They were the best team at Espana '82. We know Brazil, the favourite, might have returned home from Madrid with the World Cup had it not been for a memorable performance by the Italians, or should we say, Paolo Rossi. He stunned the Brazilians, the city of Madrid and millions of football lovers by notching up a hat-trick to take his side into the semi-finals and his name on the front pages of every conceivable daily.

Only two men knew what the 25 year-old Rossi was capable of. They were the Italian team manager Herrera and coach Enzo Bearzot. The two refused to be put off by Rossi's poor form. After four matches in the World Cup, the Italian star had still not figured amongst the goal scorers and in fact was substituted 19 minutes from the end of the encounter against Peru. But then just when things were unfavourable, Rossi struck.

To prove that his performance in the match against the Brazilians was no flash in the pan, Rossi escorted his country into the finals with two superb goals against

Poland. The five goals which were netted in the last two ties by the Italians were the fireworks of the immaculate Rossi. Born in Tuscany, Rossi, the son of a weaver, laid the foundation for Italy to wrap up the final in Spain. He headed in the first of the three goals from a melee. Thus it was Rossi who aided his side to take back to Rome a trophy they had last won forty-four years ago. Unable to obtain the



transfer fee that Lanerossi Vicenza, his club, thought he was worth, they loaned him out to US Perugia for one season only, for a fantastic £300,000. The president of the Italian league resigned in protest.

Paolo Rossi is one of the most controversial of contemporary footballers. He along with Sepp Maier signed an Amnesty International petition in 1978 protesting against the torture and treatment of political prisoners.

The darkest patch in Rossi's career was his implication in a bribery scandal. Playing for Italy's Juventus Club, Rossi was bribed a mere 1,100 Liras by a Rome book-maker—one should remember that Rossi at this stage had a pay cheque of 400,000 Liras—to 'fix' and thus, draw a match against a club which Juventus could easily have beaten.

Rossi in combination with Roberto Bettiga his Juventus team-mate along with the power of Tardelli and Benetti in midfield and the assurance of the defenders was largely responsible for Italy's great show in the 1978 World Cup. Bearzot must have had Rossi in mind when he said, "We are ready for anyone, Brazil, Argentina, the lot." In

fact, Rossi came into the limelight in Buenos Aires, scoring three goals. Four years before going to Spain, Rossi was seriously injured. He had three cartilages removed from his knee.

The small but marvelously adroit Italian earned a two year suspension after his involvement in the bribery scandal temporarily bringing to a halt his international football career. It is at this stage that Rossi got married, and now promised to reform.

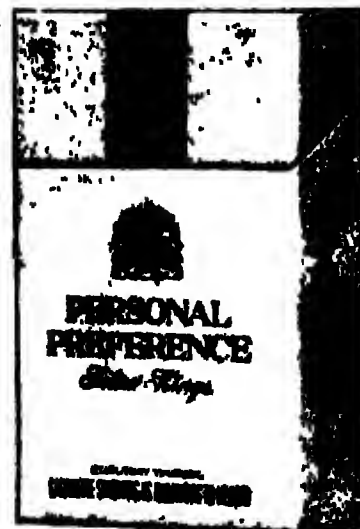
He had to rebuild the reputation he had made for himself in Argentina, because, after all, he was selected for the imaginary World XI after the 1978 World Cup. It was a difficult task.

Enzo Bearzot came in for a lot of criticism for persisting with Rossi, but was soon rewarded. The break in his career did not seem to affect him and the Italian striker had the distinction of scoring six goals in three matches, thereby becoming the top goal scorer in the World Cup. The Italian revival was complete and so was the Rossi Renaissance.



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*Filter Kings*



Trevor Francis  
in a duel with a  
Czech player  
TORONTO



of them was a beautiful grounder which Zoff just managed to save. But the last nail in their coffin came in the 72nd minute. A little earlier, Graziani was injured in a tackle and had to be carried off on a stretcher. In his place came Altobelli and he changed the course of the game instantly. Three minutes after coming in, he received the ball from Cabrini and raced up from the half line for about 30 yards. Then he stopped and waited for the others to come. Suddenly, he let fly a brilliant

curling centre which beat the Polish defence and goalkeeper and dangled for a brief tantalising moment at the edge of the goal. Rossi, who was in the penalty area, swooped in and sent in a header that had a goal written on it from the start.

This was a match which proved that a good defence alone cannot win matches for a team. There has to be tremendous speed and ball control to go with it. In this sphere Italy were far better than Poland and fully deserved this victory.

**A**LICANTE is a land of pleasure beaches, temperate climate and the good Mediterranean life. Hardly the place for the second-most important match of the World Cup. But here it was that the French, who had climbed to the peak of professional excellence, met their Waterloo. Poland, coming out of hibernation as it were, after a similar surge midway through the competition, almost sneaked past the arrogant French to gain third spot in the world.

However, the game began well for the French. Their quality to penetrate any defence was clear from the start despite the fact that they replaced goalkeeper Ittori, Battiston, Giresse, Genghin and above all Platini.

Fifty-five seconds after the 13th minute, Rene Girard scored with a grounder. The ball beat new goalkeeper Castaneda, struck the bar and went in. Thereafter, a veritable French blitz followed, but numerous chances were missed. One dangerous learning here was that whenever Poland counter-attacked, they caught the French defence napping. In these Polish endeavours, Zigmunt Boniek's inclusion was the key factor. After missing a self-made chance running through the middle, Boniek made amends in the 41st minute when he broke through the centre with an angular shot which hit the second post and went in. For the next four minutes, Poland were in full cry. And they scored on the 48th minute mark, took the lead. Castaneda, on the flight of a header and Polish left back Stefan Marowski finished a brilliant header in the net.

Although France came back with a bang in the second session, it was Poland who struck again. It was in the 59th second when a hit on Roman Wojnicki centred out from the wing was scored wide of a beautiful but empty goal. The Polish goalkeeper, however, let off a touch.

France attacked again, but was thwarted and finally, Hasna who was removed, finally thereafter, made a ball for Alain Giresse score. That was in the 77th minute, after which Didier Six came on to strengthen the attack. But despite enjoying territorial supremacy, France could not score. The frenzy was so high that one of France's reserves, who was warming up on the sidelines, ran on to the pitch at one point to take the ball and place for a free kick to be taken by the Poles. This kind of situation is unheard of in any competition.

Ultimately, however, it was the inactivity of the French, and then inability to concentrate and fight that lost for them not only this match but the semi-final against West Germany—after leading 3-1, in extra time.



Italy's celebrations in the Euro Cup after their team forced Brazil to advance to the semi-finals



# PROFILES

**T**HE year was 1958 and the arena the seventh World Cup tournament in Sweden. A superstar burst upon the world soccer scene — Edson Arantes do Nascimento Pele, a man who was destined to create a unique chapter for himself in the history of the game. His talent was a divine gift his motherland the cradle of Latin American soccer and his ambition a ceaseless pursuit of the impossible. The result was "If you ask me who is the best full back in Brazil I will say Pele. If you ask who is the best wing half I would say Pele. Who is the best winger? Pele. If you ask me who is the best goal keeper, probably I would have to say Pele. He is like no other player. He is to Brazilian football what Shakespeare is to English literature" — Joao Saldanha, former manager of the Brazil national team.

Has there ever been any other player in the history of soccer who can stand comparison to such a marvel of a sportsman? Probably not. The only man whose abilities have often been measured against those of Pele is Alfredo di Stefano, the celebrated Argentinian footballer whose capacity for match control was

## *The Shakespeare of soccer*

amazing. The other features he had in common with the Brazilian master were unflappability, superb ball control, marvelous anticipation and capacity for reading the game fast. Nevertheless, for all this, the great Argentinian maestro was not quite on a par with Pele. The unique features that distinguished the wonderman of Brazil from all the other all-time greats were his gymnastic grace and liquid fluency which always made him in congrua to his contemporaries. There were Didi, Garrincha, Vava, Zagallo — all dexterous exponents of footballing skills. But Pele appeared like a meteor to outshine all his glamorous contemporaries. Brazil won the World Cup for the first time in 1958 and it was Pele who clinched the issue for his country by scoring two invaluable goals in the final. A legend was born.

The next sensational show in the arena of World Cup was in 1970, the year Brazil made the Jules Rimet Cup their own. Pele was determined to avenge the deprivation of 1966, when he was deliberately kicked out of the tournament by Morais of Portugal.

Brazil must reign supreme was his motto and he made that happen.



In fact, Pele's principal forte was his superb ball control. He was perhaps the most agile and skilful runner with the ball the game has ever known, the ball seeming to juggle between his feet, while he moved at even maximum speeds, like a natural appendage. And

to try to snatch the ball from him always meant being bewildered by a strange magic which ever baffled the soccer pundits who tried to figure out the secret of his virtuosity. Said Bobby Moore: "Sometimes you tackle him and you are convinced you have the ball. You have felt solid contact with it and you know it's yours. Then you look round he's ten yards past you and it's at his feet." The first time Moore had the experience, he thought it to be an accident. But there was surprise in store for him and gradually it dawned on him that "incredibly he was doing it on purpose. Nothing is too outrageous for him."

It was a magic Pele himself never knew how he learnt. Therefore the only explanation he could provide was that of a devout Catholic: "I feel the greatest skill I have on the soccer field is the ability to make something out of nothing. Of course, you need balance, and speed of mind and body and strength. But there is something else, something God has given me, maybe some extra instinct 'on the game. Sometimes I can take the ball and no one can foresee any danger, and then in two or three seconds there is a goal. This is a talent that God gave me."



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# Man of the week

WORLD CUP





**Karl-Heinz Rummenigge  
of Germany beats his  
Chilean rivals to  
head the ball**

COLORSPORT

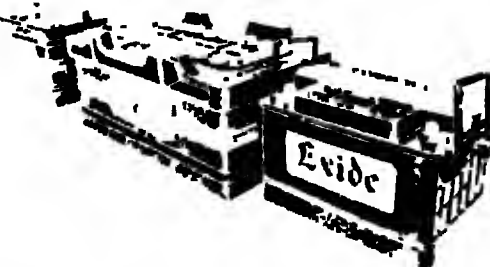
**PERSONAL  
PREFERENCE**

# WORLD CUP *Action Photographs*



**ESPAÑA 82**

(Clockwise from bottom left) Austria's Bruno Pezzay (centre) sees the ball being sent into the net by Northern Ireland's Billy Hamilton (not in pic), Poland's Stefan Majewsky (right) tries in vain to stop USSR's Oleg Blokhin, Spain's Jesus Zamora heads the ball past West German defender Uli Stielike to score a goal for his side



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**1**



**Exide**

Still keeps going  
when the rest have stopped

## WORLD CUP

# RECORDS

### **The break-through**

NO German side had ever beaten England in World Cup encounter till 1970. As a matter of fact, no German national side had ever emerged triumphant against an England side in a representative tournament since 1901. But the stranglehold was finally broken at the Mexico World Cup when England lost to West Germany by a solitary goal.

### **Germans clash**

JUNE 1974. A most extraordinary clash took place. Never before had East and West Germany met on a football field. The match was a nightmare for security organisers and at one stage it seemed as though fans would outnumber supporters. To add to the confusion of the fans throughout the game was a new sound that had never been a helicopter patrolling the sky overhead.

### **The first to fail dope test**

THE first man to fail a doping test was Ernst Jean Joseph, centre forward in the Haitian

squad at the 1974 World Cup. Despite their 3-1 defeat at the hands of Italy, they were being hailed as heroes but their reunion was rudely cut short after Joseph was required to have a dope test. The latter proved positive, but the player insisted that the only pills he had taken were those that had been prescribed for his asthma. After the tests proved conclusive, the unfortunate Joseph was dragged out of the hotel by officials travelling with the team and received a severe beating. He was confined to his room and never leave the next morning.

### **Brothers playing together**

THE first meeting of brothers playing together in a World Cup game in 1974 when Fritz and Roman Walter played along side one another for West Germany. Twelve years later, came the Charlton brothers Bobby and Jackie who helped England win the trophy on home ground in 1966. Then, in 1978 came the Dutch pair of Robbelen and Rene Renesen, but for the first time the pre-

vious brothers was not enough to help the side lift the trophy.

### **The quickest penalty**

NO World Cup final ever began in such sensational fashion as that between hosts West Germany and neighbours Holland. Shortly after kickoff, the Dutch earned a penalty and Nieskens converted it as the stadium erupted. However, the Dutch failed to maintain any kind of pressure thereafter and they ultimately lost 1-2 to their opponents.

### **The worst clash**

THE most notorious clash in World Cup history was the one involving Brazil and Hungary which was later to be called as "The Battle of Bern". It ended with 17 header kicks, two

penalties, four cautions and three send-offs. But that was not the end of the story. After the final whistle, the Brazilians invaded the Hungarian dressing room and picked up the tempo once again. But this time, it was fists cuffs and not football. The net result? The first-aid people were kept busy attending to the casualties.

### **Bomb explosion**

PRIOR to the start of the 1978 World Cup in Argentina it was found that someone had managed to smuggle a bomb into the Press Centre at Buenos Aires, despite the ironclad security surrounding the entire tournament. However, the bomb exploded as it was being removed, killing one policeman and wounding another.

# CHERRY BLOSSOM

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THIRD CORNHILL TEST

# We gave India no chance

Man of the Match, IAN BOTHAM, sends his observations about the third Test and feels that India were unlucky to find England in good form and on a pitch that gave no inkling of a decision. The series was won by England and, thus, the humiliation in India avenged.

**I**T was not like the fog we had in Calcutta, but a heavy cloud cover, leading to very bad light, which curtailed play on the fourth day.

And made it even more difficult to bring about a decisive outcome to the third Test. This kind of poor visibility is not uncommon in England, but it transpired at the wrong moment, and that cost us a vital two and three quarter hours.

Of course, the way Kapil and Kirri played en route to setting up a sixth wicket record stand of 130 we would have been denied a victory in any case. After the loss of time, everything, in fact, depended on us obtaining a breakthrough, before tea and we put everything into it. Derek Pringle dropped a sharp return chance and with that reprieve granted, Kapil blazed away to 97 which carried India to within 17 runs of saving the follow on, which Kirri ensured they did. The latter also kept wickets very well in the series, though not up to his standards at The Oval.

And once that task was performed, it was virtually a dead match. I know

people are saying, we should have hurried up, and declared earlier. But neither Allan Lamb nor Chris Tavare are fully established, and a failure for either of them, as indeed for David Gower, could have spelt danger to their respective careers. In any case, our aim was to make absolutely sure that India did not win the match. Wouldn't Sunny have done the same if he was one up in the series?

All the same, when India batted yesterday, Vishy played beautifully, and that after you had lost three wickets for 40 odd, thanks to some great catching by Bob Taylor. Of course, among the batsmen dismissed, only one—Dilip Vengsarkar—was a fully recognised one, which proves another point: no matter how dramatic our approach, there was very little likelihood of us forcing victory. Moreover, in Test cricket you don't fool around. The repercussions of even one defeat can be severe, indeed.

So, just as much as India won the first Test last winter and retained the lead, we came up trumps at

Lord's and maintained the advantage.

Like I said in India, it would be a different story in England. But it must be admitted that the Indians have given an impressive account of themselves this summer, and there can be no better testimony to this than the fact that they took the Man of the Match awards in two of the Tests, while Kapil pipped me to the post for the Man of the Series prize.

As far as I am concerned there is no rivalry between me and Kapil—all this junk is a creation of the media. We are the best of friends, and I fully admire his talents, and hopefully, the feeling is mutual. In all the important innings he played against us, including the ones in the two one day matches, he did not fail once.

And his Test aggregate of 292 came in, I believe, just 272 balls. I feel he should be promoted in the batting, but here, I guess, Sunny has a problem because Kapil has to contend with a lot of bowling.

Another splendid player in your lineup is Sandeep Patil. He arrived



The players, Botham included, watch Gavaskar in pain.

Gavaskar is carried off—a vacation followed.

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 the market."

*Sunil Gavaskar*



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here after a poor series against us in India, and till the Old Trafford Test was struggling to get runs. But what a transformation it has been since I am, now, convinced that he should have been picked at Lord's. Class is bound to tell, and it was worth a gamble.

Yes, India today have the making of a very good side. In each of the Tests, they faced massive totals, yet went about the business of chasing these with a gay abandon. It requires courage and conviction to proceed in this manner. All you need, now, is two good bowlers, and you can give even the West Indians a run for their money.

It's a pity that the weather was so awful and the wickets loaded so heavily in favour of batsmen, for it was a rather attractive series and deserved better support from spectators. Perhaps, the bad publicity of the last tour played a hand in discouraging the crowds. Whatever the reason, they missed some really good cricket.

**I** SHALL remember my 208 at The Oval for a long time. This was my first double hundred in Tests and obviously, a milestone in my career and was very, very pleased with the way I played.

I have had a good series and to climax it with a 'big' innings was most satisfying. Each innings is different from another and I can remember knocks of thirties and forties which have gratified me immensely. But this effort was important because it involved concentration over a long period of time—the maturity you develop as you go along. As I said, I will not forget this innings easily and it fetched me, as you know, the Man of the Match award.

However, the fact that I got more than 400 runs in three outings in this series was not good enough to earn me the Man of the Series prize. That, perhaps, deservedly went to Kapil. Frankly, I do not worry about these. I just go out and play as best I can. Jim Laker felt that Kapil had played the better in attack and he was right, and so, the top honour was extended to him. He probably got a couple more wickets than I did, and especially his showing at Lord's, where he captured eight wickets, must have gone in his favour.

While on the subject of Kaps, it should be emphasised that it was he who again ensured that India did not lose the third Test, for with an innings of 97—a blistering exhibition—he carried his side to safety.

And once the follow on was saved, there was little or no chance of us forcing a win. The wicket, unfortunately, was much too flat. And it got slower and lower with the progress of the game.

There has been some criticism about the timing of Willis's declaration. Here, I am afraid I would strongly defend my skipper. We lost, if you remember, those vital 42 overs on the fourth day. And thereafter, the prospects of a decision rested entirely on us obtaining a breakthrough in the session before tea. But Derek Pringle, who bowled very well in this match, dropped a return catch from Kapil and chasing in on this, the latter tormented us no end. Kirmani, too, played an excellent defensive role and the two together put on a record 130 runs to blunt whatever edge there existed in our attack.

After this, we wanted to make sure we gave India no chance of winning the match. Wouldn't India have done the same had they been one up in the series? It has been said, that we could have declared early and, thus, attempted to win. But don't forget all we extracted in the 30 overs of serious cricket in India's second innings was the wicket of just one established batsman—Dilip Vengsarkar. And the way Vishy played, it



Geoff Cook turns one to leg during the first innings

# SCORECARD INDIA VS ENGLAND AT THE OVAL

## ENGLAND (First innings)

GEOFF COOK c Shastri b Patil 50  
 CHRIS TAVARE b Kapil Dev 39  
 ALLAN LAMB run out 107  
 DAVID GOWER c Kirmani b Shastri 47  
 IAN BORTHAM c Vishwanath b Doshi 208  
 D HANDALL st Kirmani b Shastri 95  
 D PRINGLE st Kirmani b Doshi 9  
 P EDMONDS c (sub) Parker b Doshi 14  
 R TAYLOR lbw Shastri 3  
 P ALLOTT c Yashpal b Doshi 3  
 R G D WILLIS not out 1  
 EXTRAS 15 lb 3 b 10 nb  
 TOTAL (all out) 594

## (Second innings)

c Yashpal b Kapil Dev 8  
 not out 75  
 bowled Doshi 45  
 c and b Nayak 45  
 (6b 8 lb 4 nb) 18  
 (for three wickets declared) 191

Fall of wickets 1 96 2 96 3 185 4 361 5 512 6 524 7 562 8 589 9 582

Fall of wickets 1 12 2 94 3 191

## BOWLING

Kapil Dev	25-1-109-1	19-3-53-1
Madan Lal	26-8-69-0	11-6-17-0
Suru Nayak	21-5-66-0	53-0-16-1
S Patil	14-1-48-1	
Dip Doshi	46-6-175-4	19-5-47-1
Shastri	41-3-109-3	16-3-40-0

## INDIA (First innings)

R SHASTRI c Botham b Willis 66  
 D VENKATARAMAN c Edmonds b Botham 6  
 G VISHWANATH lbw Willis 56  
 YASHPAL SHARMA c Gower b Willis 38  
 SANDEEP PATIL c sub b Botham 62  
 S KIRMANI b Aliott 43  
 KAPIL DEV c Aliott b Edmonds 97  
 MADAN LAL c Taylor b Edmonds 5  
 S NAYAK lbw Edmonds 11  
 DILIP DOSHI not out 5  
 SUNIL GAVASKAR did not bat  
 EXTRAS 13b 5lb 13 nb  
 TOTAL (for nine wickets) 410

## (Second innings)

c Taylor b Willis 0  
 (3) c Taylor b Pringle 16  
 not out 75  
 not out 9  
 (2) c Taylor o Pringle 6  
 (3 lb, 2 no) 5  
 (for three wickets) 111

Fall of wickets 1 21 2 134 3 135 4 232 5 248 6 378 7 394 8 396 9 410

Fall of wickets 1 0 2 18 3 43

## BOWLING

R Willis	23-4-78-3	4-0-16-1
D Pringle	19-2-73-2	4-0-12-0
P Aliott	24-4-69-1	4-1-12-0
Edmonds	28-5-80-0	11-5-32-2
Botham	35-2-11-89-3	13-5-34-0

Match drawn



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proved beyond doubt that there wasn't a hope

Anyhow, to touch on the earlier happenings, I felt, Allan Lamb played magnificently. He was, sadly run out, as a result of a misunderstanding. But he is a class player and should do very well against Pakistan and Australia.

Derek Randall, when he visited India with Tony Greig's side, was, I believe, very popular with the crowds. And those who enjoyed his presence, and indeed his antics, will be happy to note that he's back among the runs, albeit against India.

To a certain extent, our innings was helped by some indifferent catching by the Indians. And it occurred to me that the slips might have been standing a little too deep. As for the bowling, there was certainly a case to try out the seamers while the ball was hard and in the given conditions. But Dilip Doshi when he came on, turned the ball appreciably and so did Ravi Shastri on the odd occasion. Having said that, of course, losing the toss for the third time running must have been quite heartbreaking. Sunny had better practice his 'calling' and 'tossing'.

Other than that, I think India were unlucky to find most of us in pretty good nick and with the advantage of playing at home, we were unlikely to let go of the initiative.

We felt that with the best batsman of India out of the reckoning, we had a fair chance of bowling India out cheaply. The psychological pressure of chasing a total like 594 can sometimes be overwhelming and we thought, India might miss Sunny in the circumstances. But how mistaken we were.

Ravi Shastri opening the innings, played marvellously well, weathering the storm and there by putting India on the road to a respectable score. I think, Ravi is a promising cricketer, who could end up as a very useful opener and spin bowler one day. I visualise him being the sort of anchor man Chris Tavare is to us today.

With him, Vishy realised 113 for the second wicket. Here is a superb little player, consistent, and an absolute asset to India. And it was good to see him remain unbeaten on a fluent 75 in the second innings, apart from his 56 in the first.

There was, of course, a slight controversy during his first knock, when we twice appealed for catches—once by the wicketkeeper and the other time by first slip—but these were disallowed by Dickie Bird. We felt, we had him at least once, but Vishy had doubts, and since the umpire agreed with him, he had every right to stay. Ironically, he was not too happy about being given out leg before soon after.

Then came Sandeep and he looks better every time I see him. As usual, he put forward a very correct de-

Chris Tavare bowled

fence and interspersed this with cuts, pulls and drives of great power and control. Eventually, he mistimed a hook and our substitute, Neil Taylor, took a brilliant catch at long leg. Incidentally, I also got Vengsarkar with a shorter ball, but caught at forward short leg.

Regarding Sandeep, looking back on the series, I am convinced India should have gambled with him at Lord's. He is very hard to bowl to. And all the stories I had been hearing about his display in Australia have been proved true.

We could not restrict India to less than 395—they got 410—but Bob Willis bowled a couple of very good spells, and in one such burst removed Ravi and Vishy in quick succession. We had problems during the Indian innings in that Derek Randall was out with a hamstring, and Phil Edmonds was hammered by a similar ailment. But the latter on a wicket responding to a bit of spin by then polished off the Indian venture to finish with three wickets, as did Bob.

The approach of Allan Lamb and Chris Tavare in the second innings



has come in for a bit of criticism. They were, perhaps, a bit slow in their run gathering. But at the same time, it is important for both to keep their places intact. One failure and they could be left out. Players like Mike Gatting are waiting in the wings, getting plenty of runs in the County games and one, I suppose, has to be vigilant.

But I understand the feelings of the media, and my commiserations got out to the Indians. They have acquitted themselves with credit this summer, particularly in the Tests, and but for that one failure at Lord's—when I thought we bowled exceedingly well—they would have had nothing to mourn about.

One last word. I was aggrieved about the fact that it was one of my shots that rendered Sunny hors de combat. It has been said that as captain he should not have stood in such a suicidal position, and there is possibly some wisdom in this view, but I believe a skipper should lead from the front. And that is what Sunny was doing. He'll be back soon, and as prolifically as ever.

◊◊ I don't believe a man has to be  
heard to be seen.  
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I believe in an appearance  
that's personal.  
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having to say a word...



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**CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

## Youngsters impress

**CHANDAN SINGH, the former Olympian footballer who also represented both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan in the Fifties, analyses the crucial match between the two arch rivals**

It has been a long time since I watched a match in this football loving city. The game between East Bengal and Mohun Bagan at no moment rose to any great heights. I was pleased at the high spirit of competition the game was played in but disappointed with the lack of effort on the part of both teams to play purposeful football.

It has been my privilege to play in a team which had the genius Mewal Das strike in the early Fifties. What I am trying to get at is that the game of Calcutta and, in fact, Indian football in general is not shooting. This is what struck me the most when I went down to the Eden Gardens on that typical Calcutta afternoon to watch the red and yellows take on the Federation Cup Champions, Mohun Bagan.

Eden Gardens is known to have a turf which is easily susceptible to rain. The ground on the 'big day' was heavy and it was quite surprising to note that most of the players used boots which either had rubber studs or those with very small studs. Even a man with the experience of Shivaji Thapa played the 70 minute match with rubber-soled boots and like many of his other team mates found it very difficult to keep his balance

on the slippery surface.

With the top players away doing national duty many young up and coming footballers have been given the opportunity to get a break. Not all of them have made full use of this wonderful present. This was the season when forwards, and in fact all footballers, could cross the bridge from an 'also-ran' to the flowing river of stardom.

And Dutta's men right from the beginning of the match looked the better team. They got the first real chance of scoring when a Kartick Sett centre came on a platter to Akhai who headed out. Thereafter it was a story with one central theme—do everything but do not score. If Indian football wants to put itself on the map they must learn to convert half chances into goals.

With the exploits of Paolo Rossi and Karl heinz Rummenigge putting into the shade the mite of an Anup Das and an Amitava Mukherjee, the build up to the 'big match' was on a slightly low key.

On paper—and only that—the maroon and greens were much the stronger side. However, the irony of it all was that it was their experienced players who let the team down. Battle scared linkman

Gautam Sarkar contributed very little to this match. Midway through the first half, he put through Annta va Mukherjee, but the latter was intelligently brought down by Biswajit Bose inside the penalty area. The televising of the World Cup matches had its influence on this incident. In the normal circumstances of Calcutta football, both players and crowd alike would have exercised their vocal chords to claim a penalty. However, I feel Biswajit's tackle was viewed in the right light by referee Dilip Sen.

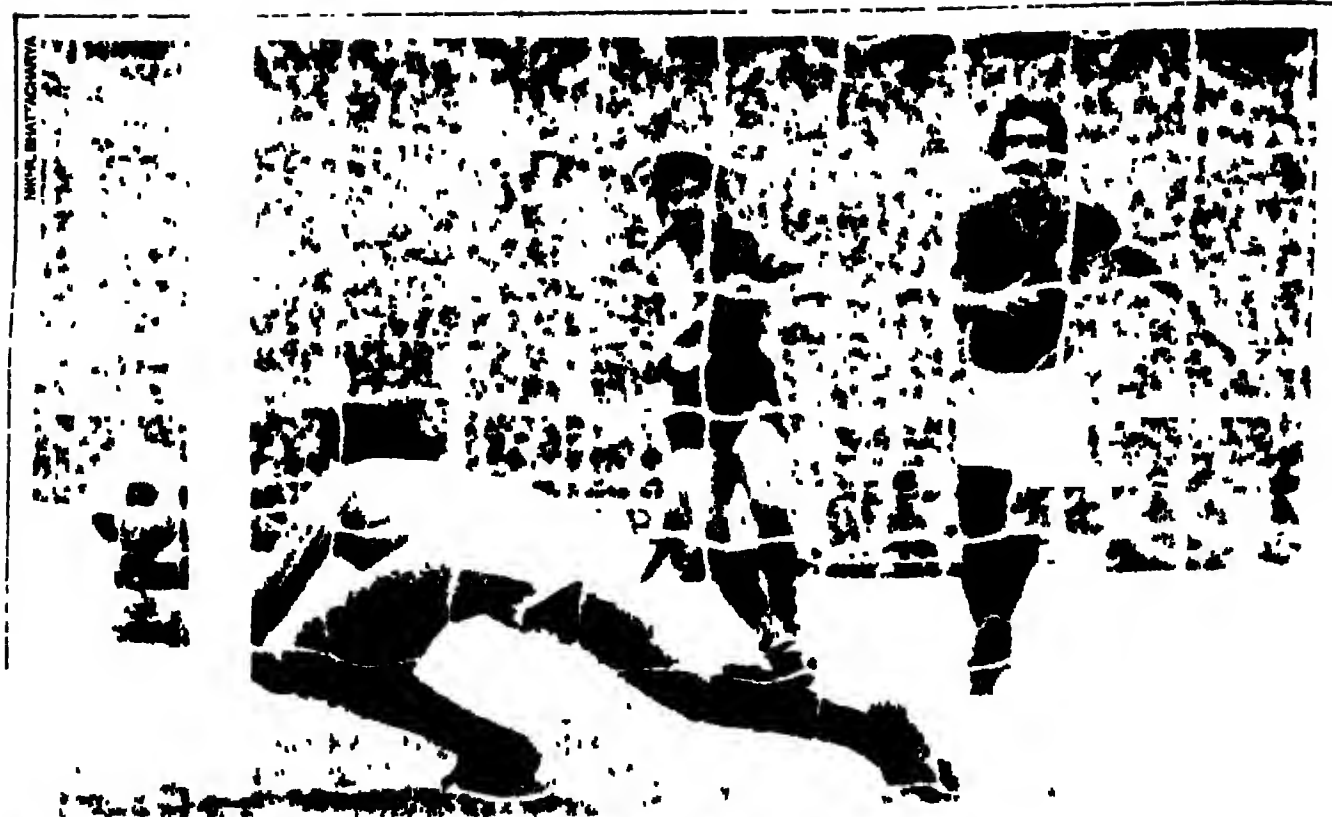
One person who would like to forget this encounter as soon as possible is Mohun Bagan stopper Subrata Bhattacharya. I have always maintained that self confidence is one of the most important traits of a good footballer. But what I do not advocate is over confidence which is detrimental to both the player concerned and the side. Subrata on this day was complacently personified. There were countless occasions when he dilly-dallied inside the Bagan penalty area, crossed the ball right across his own goalmouth and virtually did everything which would make even a novice blush. In the 21st minute, Bhattacharya gave Anup Das a chance to shoot at the Mohun Bagan goal, and it was only the alertness of blue jerseyed Shivaji Banerjee which saved the situation. This, coupled with the total bottling up of Surant Sengupta by the East Bengal defence and the pedestrian performance of Gautam Sarkar, punctured the balloon of Mohun Bagan's morale.

It is the defence that plays an important role in not only negating the opponents' moves but also setting up constructive plays. Mohun Bagan defenders Subrata and Gouranga Benerjee, could not even play a destructive role and the question of them trying to initiate moves was conspicuously absent in their

*East Bengal scores the all important goal through Kartick Sett (extreme right)*



ARAPDA BANERJEE



Arup Das misses the easiest of chances from close while Subrata Bhattacharya looks on

repertoire. The East Bengal defence had a lot more discipline in their ranks and did not play the match with their noses up in the air. There is a lot more stress on defence in modern football than in the days when I wore boots and preventing goals was the topmost priority of all teams.

The best scoring chance came Mohun Bagan's way five minutes before the teams swapped ends. Ex Indian Junior captain Denis Williamson now trying his level best to make a name for himself in Calcutta football despatched a left footer eight yards from the East Bengal goal. It was the only not-worthy attempt at goal by Mohun Bagan in the first half and the East Bengal custodian Tapas Chakravarty did well to pluck it from the air.

It would not have come as a surprise to me if East Bengal were up by two goals to one in the first half. They certainly enjoyed the major share of the exchanges and with Milar Bose and skipper Amalraj putting in sterling performances the red and yellow shirts controlled the midfield. The chunky Mihir Bose was, in my opinion, the player of the whole match. It was he who put Kaitrick Sett through on the left flank. The latter did well to then find Arup Das whose floater was headed by Akbar, but the ball unfortunately hit the crossbar.

I know it sounds funny but it was the ten minutes of half-time which were the most useful. I renewed old bonds of friendship with some of my team-mates of the Helsinki Olympic

Games. My eyes caught sight of the Ranji Stadium. It was uninhabited except for the odd policeman. My heart, even though so used to the rugged hills of Darjeeling, where I used to coach, was pained as the horror of the August 16 episode was dug up from my mind.

One hoped that the lectures of Pulk Biswas back volleys

coaches Amal Dutta and Santanu Banerjee would revitalize their respective teams. Unfortunately, the football dished out in the second half, once again, was sub-standard. The players in junior teams always strive hard to give of their best. But as soon as they sign up for a Big Team the glamour gets the better of





their game. In this match it was the younger crop of players—East Bengal's Pulak Biswas and Tapash Chakraborty and Mohun Bagan's Krishnendu Roy—who impressed me the most. In my opinion, it was Krishnendu whom Mohun Bagan were gambling with. He used to overlap very often and with Gauranga Banerjee and Subrata playing like children the responsibility of holding the Mohun Bagan fort fell on Satyajit Ghosh.

A few minutes into the second half surout was brought down by Pulak and there was a school of thought who felt that a penalty award would not be unjustified. I, for one, feel that the tackle did not have dishonourable intentions and the referee was perfectly correct in not awarding a penalty.

As the game progressed on its weary, boring and tedious way the younger East Bengal side began to dominate because they were a fitter lot. Physical fitness is as important to football as good cards are to a bridge player and this was amply demonstrated by East Bengal slowly but surely began to control proceedings. They have been playing better football this season and were bubbling with confidence after their win over Mohammedan Sporting, a fortnight ago.

Mohun Bagan got their only goal when Gautam Sarkar took a freekick awarded after Amitava was brought down by Pulak. Amitava Mukherjee was more obsessed in getting his name into the score book and thus played selfish football, forgetting that there were another 10 men in his side. Nevertheless, Gautam who has scored so many a goal from freekicks was deprived this time when his goal bound bullet was saved by the tall East Bengal custodian.

Dutta at last managed to exercise his authority when a fast tiring Akbar was replaced by Subir Sarkar. This move soon paid rich dividends. Sarkar was unfairly tackled by Subrata Bhattacharya who now seems to relish the fact that he is dubbed a tough player. The untoppable Mihir took the resultant freekick after which Balaji Mukherjee floated the ball into the Mohun Bagan penalty area. In keeping with the fitness of things and the total lack of co-ordination and effort to play constructive soccer a melee resulted. Gauranga Banerjee miskicked Kartick Sengupta, the ball entered the top left hand corner of the net and East Bengal supporters burst into applause and the Eden Gardens resounded with cheers.

East Bengal had at last put it across Mohun Bagan and their cup of joy overflowed. They were undoubtedly deserving winners against a Mohun Bagan team who seemed to have forgotten the art of football this Saturday afternoon.

# Unsporting Sporting

**MOHAMMEDAN S.C.** After a harrowing experience the previous week, the next two engagements were no better. Although the home side prevailed over Kumartuli the performance lacked lustre. The first half saw some action but the latter was played aimlessly. Both Sporting's goals were netted in a span of twelve minutes when Kumartuli defender Basu Choudhury failed to head, Uttam Chakraborty managed to nod in Robin Das's lob off the second bounce. The second goal saw some of the old touch of Majid Jamshid floated the ball and dashing Majid followed up with a powerful left footer which crashed into the net.

Kumartuli coach Amrita Chakraborty said after the match "This was our thirteenth match and we kept to the 4-2-4 system. My menios failed and this is why the opponents took advantage. I won't say that the goals scored came through fine movements. In fact, they were stray goals. I think we played better than they did on the ground. They were emphasising too much on head play."

Mohammedan S.C. coach too was not very satisfied with his team's display. Why the team is performing inconsistently—and shabbily too—leaves everyone in doubt. One wonders whether the players are dissatisfied or is there just too much lurching. As has been said earlier

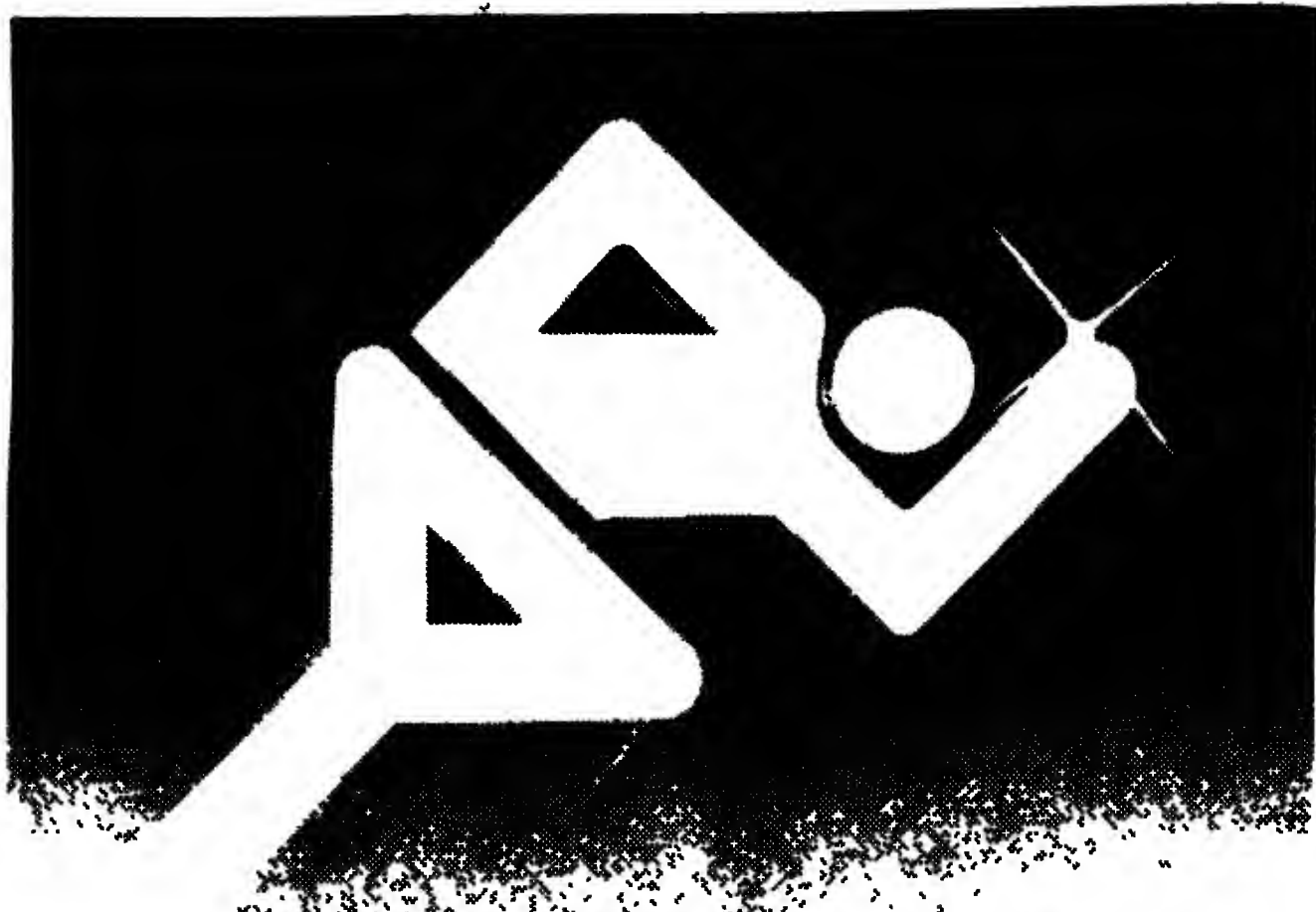
that if things do not improve the team will soon be in for a big shock. And sure enough things came to a climax in their match against the formidable Railway F.C.

Mohammedan S.C. had their chances—a story being repeated once too often. But what excuse can they make when after conceding a genuine goal they helped in conjuring up the violence of the August 16 episode. Railway F.C. seems to have earned the wrath of the Big Three already. This is the only side that can face the three on equal terms. But instead of getting the applause of the crowd for their fighting qualities, RFC is showered with brickbats. Against Mohun Bagan there was chaos when RFC held them for the third year in succession and then against the black-and-whites all hell was let loose.

Fanatics turning violent if their favourite team is either held or beaten has become the order of the day. In fact, the junior side's brilliant performance in the fanatics version is a crime and the junior side involved must be prosecuted. Undoubtedly, Pradip Nag's inept supervision in the encounter led to the home side taking advantage of his leniency. Had he dealt with the players of both sides sternly things might not have been that bad. Then again, Mohammedan S.C. is never comfort-

Pem Dorji lands one on linesman D. K. Bhattacharyya





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GRIFFIN

able when they confront RFC. The scene was a repeat of the 1979 encounter, but this time with a difference.

A back pass from Alok Mukherjee saw Sanjib Dey move in to strike home leaving goalkeeper Nasir Ahmed agape. Immediately a couple of home players protested to the referee on the flimsy grounds that it was an off side goal. But Pradip Nag stuck to his verdict. There was some jostling and suddenly Jamshid rushed to linesman D K Bhattacharjee and fisted him on the face. It was a clear goal and the linesman by no means waved the flag for off side. The green galleries erupted and missiles flew towards the RFC players. As if Jamshid's blow was not enough, Pem Dorji landed another blow to the linesman. There were more brickbats. The game was suspended and the referee sought police help. The police were passive but went into action immediately after Pradip Nag's plea. The stands were cleared. The violence began from the southern ramparts and a little later a section of the members stand joined the fray. Surprising this, but it is believed that many 'members' helped disrupt proceedings. Because of the few 'intruders' the members present had to pay the price of police action.

When all the players were huddled together on the centre of the field the police began a pitched battle with the crowd on the southern side. Referee Nag waited for things to cool down before resuming the game. "I tried my best to resume the match as there was sufficient time and light. But it was impossible to do so as there were so many bricks scattered all over the ground. And clearing it would have taken time. It is sad indeed that such an incident occurred following the goal. There is no second thought about the goal and the linesman did not wave for off side. Just as I had blown the whistle the linesman moved towards the centre and that is indicative enough. It was a clear goal. The way some home players acted with the linesman was disgraceful. They were just trying to force him into saying that the goal was scored from an offside position," said a tensed Pradip Nag, adding, "Both the teams wanted to resume play. Majid wanted to continue the game but it was not possible because of the bricks on the ground and teargas fumes still in the air. After waiting for 15 minutes I abandoned the game."

Mohammedan SC officials complained about the police action on the members and officials alike.

**EAST BENGAL:** So far the main reason for the home team's indifferent performances has been lack of understanding and co-ordination between their half-liners and the forwards, as a result of which East



Kartick Sett (23) being embraced by Amalraj and Tapan Das after scoring against Kalighat.

Bengal have always found it difficult to maintain rhythm in their attacks. Naturally, they had to bank on individual skill, which also was not much in evidence. Whenever their link-men have played their roles well East Bengal enjoyed complete dominance over the game and wreaked havoc on their rival defenders without much difficulty.

And that was precisely the case with the big team when they reg-

istered a facile victory over Kalighat. Most of their moves originated from the halfline and were carried to the opponent danger zone by the front-liners very fast. Moreover, time and again the half-liners themselves rushed upfield to put even more pressure on the Kalighat defenders, who consequently found themselves in a hopeless situation, outnumbered by the East Bengal players.

The results were immediate. In the

very second minute East Bengal got their first goal through Amalraj. It was the skipper again who paved the way for the second goal scored by Kartick Sett in a spectacular fashion. Amalraj forwarded an accurate through pass which Kartick shot home after dribbling past two Kalighat defenders.

In fact, Kartick was in action right from the beginning, always trying to create openings mainly through dribbling and occasionally by scheming swift moves in co-ordination with the other East Bengal frontliners and the Kalighat team simply could not keep pace with them.

On the other hand, the Kalighat forwards unable to make much headway into the East Bengal penalty area resorted to taking long range shots towards the goal and quite

account of themselves, scoring only one goal. The goal, scored by Surajit Sengupta, was an opportunistic one and came in the second half. For all this they had only themselves to blame. Right from the beginning they kept missing easy chances when the forwards kept fumbling in front of the goalmouth.

The first half, more or less, belonged to Mohun Bagan. The first chance came their way as early as the fourth minute when from a centre by Denis Williamson from the left flank, the ball went to Krishanu Dey who had only the goalkeeper in front of him. But hastily he shot straight into the custodian's hands. Two minutes later, Krishnendu Roy, who was playing well since the start of the league, overlapped and gave a ball to Surajit on the right flank.

the change of ends and got the only goal of the match in the tenth minute. From a freekick by Gauranga Banerjee the ball went to left wing-back Dulal Sen, who tried to control the ball. But Surajit was there. He snatched the ball and gently placed the ball into the net. After that, Sporting Union twice came close to scoring but Amit Dey failed to take a powerful shot from close and then Biren Das took his time and Satyajit cleared the ball to safety.

In the Mohun Bagan defence, as already mentioned Krishnendu and Satyajit played well. Subrata Bhattacharya was sometimes beaten by speed and when he went up to help his forwards, he could hardly do anything of note. Gautam Sarkar, in the halfline was not his usual self and his partner, Sujas Bera, with his



Surajit Sett put a close goal against Sporting Union

NINIK BHATTACHARYA

expectedly most of them ballooned over the mark without creating even a semblance of danger. However, in the 28th minute of the second half Kalighat got a golden opportunity to score when the East Bengal custodian fumbled a Krishnendu Sengupta shot and Biswanut Bose made a goalkeeping save.

However, the plan did not materialise on the goals. Rather it resulted from a defence lapse which the Kalighat strikers tried their best to cash in on.

A few minutes later East Bengal added one more goal to their first half score and proved that they were fully prepared for the crucial twilight period.

**MOHUN BAGAN** The match against Sporting Union was their last before the crucial tie against East Bengal. But the home team gave a very poor

Surajit dribbled past a couple of defenders and tried to do the same with the goalkeeper. But in trying to overdo his dribbling act, missed the opening.

Sporting Union also tried to go into the attack and once a piledriver from Biren Das, from outside the box, flew over the crosspiece. Biren Das, along with Mridul Banerjee kept the Mohun Bagan defence on their toes and tried to penetrate into the Bagan area but their efforts were foiled by Krishnendu and Satyajit Ghosh who played a safe game.

In the first half itself, Mohun Bagan got quite a few openings, but they were thwarted by their forwards. Twice captain Shyam Thapa failed to utilise his famous volleys and once Surajit hit straight into the defenders' legs from close.

After a barren first half, Mohun Bagan kept exerting pressure after

limitations, tried hard. But the forward line was totally off. "My players failed to keep the ball to themselves, that they should have done in this match. And to add to their own misery they kept missing open chances," said the coach Sankar Banerjee.

From the Sporting Union side, the player who caught the eye the most was then linkman Alok Das. He moved all over the field and kept his forwards busy with some fine passes. At times he also fell back to help the defence. "We could have easily drawn the match. That was a gift goal because Dulal could have easily cleared the ball. But I am satisfied with the performance of my players, because they fought on equal terms with their renowned rivals," said the coach Dilip Pal.

**SUBHASH SARKAR, SARAJIT DEB & SUPRAKASH GHOSAL**

## Destroying evidence

**W**HENEVER there are violent incidents in the Calcutta Maidan, Press photographers fall victim to the fury of the mob. Stones are thrown at them, attempts are made to snatch their instruments and even they are assaulted mercilessly when they try to resist. This has become quite customary in the three enclosed grounds of the city. Only a few days ago, when the players of a big club manhandled one of the linesmen, violence broke out in the stands with the supporters of the big team hurling missiles indiscriminately

## Maidan musings

into the ground and, thus injuring a number of police officials. Suddenly their wrath turned towards the Press cameramen who were sitting near the sidelines. In no time started a heavy shower of bricks and stones, with some spectators crying at the top of their voices that if they took photographs they would have to face dire consequences.

But undaunted, the photographers went on discharging their duty, taking snaps of some players of the big club beating the linesman

right and left. That added fuel to the flame. They realised that the photographs would appear in all the dailies next morning. Disturbed by the thought, the crowds vowed to wreak vengeance on them when the opportunity would come their way. Suddenly they got hold of one photographer and did not hesitate to give vent to their anger. The luckless cameraman was beaten up just as a pick-pocket is done in the Calcutta streets, with blows landing on his body from all directions. What are the motives

that egg people on to indulge in such condemnable acts? No acceptable explanation can be thought of but the fact that they do so with only one purpose—not to allow the truth to be known. Will their efforts be successful?

## World Cup hangover

**N**IGHTLONG football—something unheard of in Calcutta. But with the greatest show of soccer on nothing was impossible. The crucial matches of the World Cup were beamed far away from Spain and the antenna-boasters of the metropolis spent sleepless nights with eyes glued to their TV sets. The days were full of hard work, and the mornings ensuing did not promise holidays either. But who cares? Soccer is soccer, nothing can stand in its way. All the more, it is World Cup, something of once-in-a-lifetime quality. Therefore, let there be sleepless nights and dozed-off workdays in offices.

People went to work with red eyes and frequently yawning mouths, announced their inability to work, minutes after arriving at their offices and proposed that the day be spent recollecting those dramatic moments on the screens of their TV sets. Oh Paolo Rossi, what a great player he is. And the German goalie Schumacher—brilliant, brilliant—the way he saved the penalty kick during the tie-breaker. It was simply unbelievable. But didn't he move a bit before the shot was taken? Perhaps, he did. But then the referee was quite close to the scene. He surely would have noticed it.

Thus went the discussions and exchange of expertise. Nothing wrong—Calcutta is reputed as the most soccer-loving city in the world. Only files piled up rapidly on the tables





## Not a pampered lot

One of the reasons why umpires are scarce is the fact they are paid a negligible amount for supervising league and other local matches. One has got to be a very keen enthusiast to umpire for one, two, three or more days in the scorching sun under the strain of tremendous concentration. While the players are now a pampered lot, the umpires are, unfortunately, treated with contempt both by players and officials. This is a sad state of affairs in this country. The time has come when it is no longer possible for umpires to supervise matches only for 'love' of sport but it has got to be made worthwhile for them so that they willingly wear the white coats. It is doubly essential because players get at least a part of the game under the shade of the pavilion roof while the poor umpires have to stand for the entire duration of the match without getting any rest. As a fellow journalist has said somewhere "Gird up their loins and make the line

Illustration by Subraia Ganesh



worthy of the labour.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has taken positive steps to improve the lot of the Test umpires. But they deserve still better remuneration keeping in mind the fact that Test stars pick up about Rs 15,000 from every Test they play.

In order to nurture talent, the Board has got one chief national coach and five zonal coaches. This is laudable. On the similar lines, the Board should appoint one chief national umpire and five zonal umpires to organise seminars, clinics and search for prospective candidates to stand the strain of the umpiring. This is of great importance because the umpire is one person, who can make or mar the game.

The Board should also co-opt retired Test umpires on the umpiring committee instead of depending on non-technical personnel, who do not have a good concept about laws and conventions. The Board, an affluent

body, will do an immense good to cricket if they provide as much importance to umpires' reports for and against players as they do to captains' confidential reports on umpires. Unless this is done the acts of indiscipline will continue to mount unabated. The time is now ripe for the Board to act before the situation gets out of their hands.

In the recently-concluded India-England Test series one of the experienced umpires was dramatically changed following protests made by the England team. Not many cricket followers in this country or in England are aware that the umpire was changed more because of Sunil Gavaskar's complaint than because of the protest lodged by the England team. This was confirmed to me by one of the senior Board officials at New Delhi on the eve of the Test match.

Here are some of the problems:  
Q: In reply to A team's 180, B side

were 180 for nine wickets. In trying to deliver the ball, it slips out of the bowler's hand and goes to point. The striker, in a frenzy, starts to take a run. But the fielder picks up the ball and throws. One of the batsmen is run out. What will be the result of the match?

A: If the ball comes to rest before crossing the opposite wicket, the umpire, as per rules, will declare 'ball not delivered' and ask the bowler to deliver the ball again. This is, however, applicable only when the striker declines to exercise his right of hitting. But if the ball has crossed the striker's wicket, either batsman can be run out if they are attempting any run. If the ball has been declared wide, one run—as stipulated for 'wide ball'—is added to the score and the batting side wins the match by one wicket.

Q: The batsmen have not crossed each other for the second run when the fielder's over-throw is racing to the

boundary. The batsmen take four runs before the ball crosses the boundary. State (1) how many runs will be awarded and (2) who will face the next ball?

A: (1) Five runs will be awarded to the striker and (2) non-striker will face the next ball.

Q: An injured batsman, who has a runner, hits the ball and one run is taken. But the injured batsman (striker), however, is still loitering about outside his crease. The fielder breaks the wicket with a direct throw. Can the batsman be out 'run out'?

A: Yes, the striker will then be run out.

Q: The batsman jumps out to hit the ball. He fails to connect. The wicket-keeper keeps his feet behind the stumps but collects the ball in front of the wicket and removes the balls before the striker regains his crease. Can he be stumped or run out?

A: The batsman can not be stumped since the wicket-keeper collected the ball in front of the stumps. He cannot be run out since he was not attempting to take a run.





# Crossword

156



## ACROSS

- 1 Tilden of tennis fame was better known as Big (4)
- 1 A gift of the elements for an English fast bowler (4)
- 7 Tennis pros have combined into this (1 1 1)
- 9 One of the youngest winners of a Wimbledon title (3)
- 10 Weeks initially (1 1 1)
- 11 A cricketing Davo initially (1 1 1)
- 12 Court divider (3)
- 13 How Nandan of the tennis world ends (3)
- 15 What a fervent race-goer dearly desires is a good this (3)
- 17 A former world table tennis champion begins and ends in circles (3)
- 18 A former West Indian batsman has an organ coming back (3)
- 19 This hockey is popular in Canada coming back (3)
- 20 The basis of cricketing evaluation returns (4)
- 21 One of the organs most exposed in boxing (4)

## DOWN

- 2 Country where kho-kho originated (5)
- 3 An Australia opener has atmosphere in between (5)
- 4 Runners-up in hockey at the Moscow Olympics (5)
- 5 A leading athlete has a doctor in between (5)
- 6 Warwickshire's home ground (9)
- 8 New Swedish tennis star has a conjunction in between (1, 8)
- 13 Jack-- was no man but a racehorse and one of the most successful of them (5)
- 14 He almost killed Chatfield by pitching it short (5)
- 15 When you take one to the nng, you take him to? (5)
- 16 Roland Garros is here (5)

Excellent 24-21, Good 20-17, Fair 16-14

# Question box

by Sudhir Jaidy

D Srinivasan, Madras

Q How many runs did Gavaskar score against England in 1972-73 in the first three Tests?

A 20 in each Test, making total of 60 in the first three Tests

A Harish G Makhija, residence not stated

Q What exactly is meant by "obstructing the field"? Has there been an instance in Test?

A When a batsman after making a stroke makes a deliberate attempt to obstruct a fieldsman from taking the catch offered by the batsman, then the umpire if he is satisfied about the intentions of the batsman can declare the batsman out 'obstructing the fieldsman'. Len Hutton of England was given out for 'obstructing the field' in the Test against South Africa at The Oval in 1951

Q Did Graham McKenzie come over to India in 1969-70?

A Yes he did

Amar Madilwar, Ranchi

Q What is Ashok Mankad's highest Test score?

A 97 in the third Test against Australia at Delhi in 1969-70

Subhasish Ghatak, Calcutta

Q Where was the first cricket Test match played? Between whom and when?

A At Melbourne between Australia and England in 1876-77

Bijoy Kumar Mahanti, Barbil

Q What is the highest Test score by a cricketer in Madras?

A 231 by Vinoo Mankad for India against New Zealand in 1955-56

Awadhash Kumar, Gaibee

Q Who was the first Test victim of B S Bedi?

A Clive Lloyd of West Indies in the second Test at Calcutta in 1966-67

S Resh, Dalli Rajhara

Q If a wicketkeeper removes the balls with his shoes or pads after catching the ball thrown by a fieldsman, is the bats-

man involved out?

A No The wicketkeeper should dislodge the balls/stumps with his hands

U H Suresh, Bahrain

Q How many Test teams have scored more than 400 runs in the fourth innings?

A England thrice Australia twice South Africa once, West Indies once, India thrice and New Zealand once

Prakash H Rawal, Asansol

Q What were Sunil Gavaskar's Test-by-Test scores in Australia and New Zealand in 1980-81?

A 0 and 10 at Sydney, 23 and 5 at Adelaide, 10 and 70 at Melbourne in Australia 23 and 12 at Wellington, 53 at Christchurch and 5 and 33 at Auckland

## Quiz

Gho

## QUESTIONS

- 1 G M H Basha the Technical Director of the AIFF was a footballer. In which position did he play?
- 2 How many teams participated in the Asia-Oceania zone qualifying tournament for the 1982 World Cup football?
- 3 Who are the reigning Asian champions (not Asian Games champions) in football?
- 4 Which Asian team held the eventual champions Czechoslovakia to a draw in the 1980 Olympic soccer tournament?
- 5 Which player scored 250 goals during his 18 years with Real Madrid?
- 6 Which Soviet boxer won the Val Barker Cup which is presented to the best boxer in the Olympic tournament?
- 7 Which boxer won the aforementioned (Q 6) cup in the 1980 Olympics?
- 8 Who was named the best cyclist of the world (by the International Amateur Cycling Federation) for three years in a row?
- 9 A fifteen-year-old school girl gave the USSR their first ever gold medal in swimming. Name her.
- 10 Give the full name of the African Footballer of the Year who figured in the recently-concluded World Cup soccer tournament.

## ANSWERS

- 1 Goalkeeper
- 2 21
- 3 Kuwait
- 4 Kuwait
- 5 Francisco Gento
- 6 Valery Popovchenko (1954 Olympics)
- 7 Patrizio Oliva (Italy)
- 8 Sergei Sukhoruchenkov (The USSR)
- 9 Galina Prozumenshchikova (200m breast-stroke champion in the 1964 Olympics)
- 10 Lakhdar Belloumi (Algeria)

## SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 155



in New Zealand in 1980-81

**H N Jaysinha, H N Mahesh, Rajhara**  
**Q** Who was the first player to score a zero and hold the first catch in Tests?  
**A** E J Gregory of Australia was the first to score a zero in the first-ever Test against England at Melbourne in 1876-77. Allen Hill of England held the first catch to dismiss T P Horan of Australia in the aforesaid Test match.

**Jacob Thomas, Gauhati**

**Q** Please let me know the names of different opening batsmen who have opened with Sunil Gavaskar.

**A** Ashok Mankad (six Tests), Abid Ali (one Test), Rannath Parkar (two Tests), Farrokh Engineer (four Tests), Eknath Solkar (one Test), Sudhir Naik (one Test), Dilip Vengsarkar (five

Tests), P Sharma (one Tests), Aunshuman Gaekwad (10 Tests), Mohinder Amarnath (one Test), Chetan Chauhan (36 Tests), Roger Binny (one Test), K Srikkanth (four Tests), Pranab Roy (two Tests).

**S N Tibrawalla, Kathmandu**

**Q** Who are the Test players who have not scored even a single zero in Tests?

**A** There are innumerable cricketers who have not scored a single zero in their Test careers.

**Anil Kumar Agarwall, Barakar**

**Q** How many times has Gavaskar scored two highest runs in both the innings of a completed Test match? What is the world record in this respect?  
**A** Gavaskar himself holds a world record in respect of scoring the highest

number of runs in both innings on most occasions. He has been the top scorer in both innings (completed innings only) of a Test on five occasions.  
**Q** In how many century-stands has Gavaskar participated? What is the world record of a single batsman participating in most century stands in Tests?  
**A** Gavaskar had participated in 36 century stands before his England tour. The break-up is as follows—16 times for first wicket, 12 times for second wicket, four times for third wicket, twice each for the fourth and fifth wicket. Geoff Boycott of England holds the world record for his 46 century stands.

**Anilendu Bhattacharjee, Maligaon**

**Q** Is there any bowler who has bowled with both his hands in a Test?  
**A** No.

## Bridge

Just because people are fine players of this game it doesn't necessarily mean that they can write intelligently about it and I always regard a book by a new author with some suspicion. It was therefore very pleasing to find that *Hoffman on Pairs Play* by Martin Hoffman (Faber and Faber £6.95) is excellently written and—as you might expect from someone with such a consistently good pairs record—contains much solid advice. I was dummv here!

There is a story that when Capablanca, the great chess master, was asked how many moves ahead he looked, he answered One, the point being that his sense of position made calculation unnecessary. Most of the time, a good bridge player has a feeling for the right line of play, but there are also times when some instinct warns him not to follow his first inclination.

♠ K 10 8 7 6

♥ none

♦ 5 4 3 2

♣ 10 9 6 5

♠ J 5 2

♥ 7 6 4

♦ J 10

♣ A G 1 3

♠ none

♥ A J 9 8 5 3

♦ Q 9 7 6

♣ 8 7 2

♠ A J 9 4 3

♥ Q 10 2

♦ A 7 8

♣ K J

'East dealt with North-South vulnerable and playing weak two, the bidding went:

South	West	North	East
2♣	1♥	4♠	5♥
3♣	pass	5♠	pass
pass	4♥	all pass	

West led the Jack of diamonds. I won with the Ace, played Ace of spades and finessed the 10. Now it may seem both safe and prudent to draw the last trump but with the cards exposed I expect you can see the snag. Suppose I play King of spades, then finesse the Jack of clubs. West wins and punches dummy with a heart. I lead a club to the King and West holds off. Suddenly I am a trick short. Fortunately I saw the danger in time and led a club to the Jack before drawing the last trump. Then I had the entries to set up an extra club winner against any defence. At the end of each hand Martin picks up

two points to remember, perhaps in the bidding, perhaps in the play. With this deal, he analyses why he preferred to overcall with two spades rather than bid 2NT or double and goes on to observe: "The play shows simply that first thoughts are not always best. If you have the patience, follow your intended line of play to its conclusion before laying a card on the table."

**Last week's quiz.** At love all you dealt with ♠ A Q 10 5 2, ♥ Q 3, ♦ K 7, ♣ Q 6 4 3. You opened one spade, your partner responded two hearts and you rebid two-spades. Now partner pushed on with three-hearts. I would raise to four-hearts—partner's bid is constructive for if he had been worth only one bid he would have passed two spades. However, I will be the first to apologise if nine tricks proves to be the limit.

**This week's quiz.** At game all you deal as South with ♠ K 4, ♥ A K J 9 7, ♦ Q 5, ♣ A 7 6 4 and open one-heart. West overcalls with two-diamonds and this is followed by two passes. What action, if any, do you take?

## Chess

It can be taken for granted that there will be some spectacular chess in an event in which Michael Basman participates. I recently saw him in action in the East Devon Open, and, though he did not win the tournament (that distinction went to Mark Hebden and Jim Plaskett), Basman certainly lived up to his reputation as one of this country's most original and creative masters. The game given below shows him at his most aggressive and provided excellent entertainment for the onlookers.

**White: Michael Basman; Black: Christopher Bell.**  
 Sicilian Defence (Evans 1982)  
 1 P-B4, P-B4; 2 B-B3, P-B4;  
 3 P-B3, B-B2; 4 P-B4, P-P  
 5 P-P, P-B4; 6 P-B4, B-B5  
 7 B-B2, B-B2; 8 B-B4, P-B3  
 9 P-B4

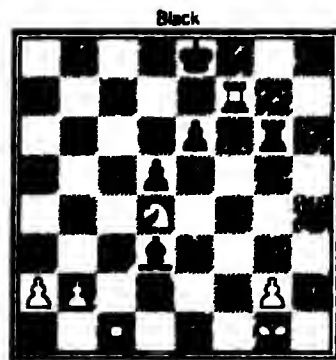
Some sort of aggression is necessary, otherwise Black will set up a very solid wall of defence.  
 10 P-B4; 10 B-B5, B-B2

11 B-B3, B-B3  
 12 Q-Q, B-B2  
 13 Q-Q, B-B2

Probably Black could have risked taking the QP  
 13 B-B2, B-B2; 14 B-B4, B-B2  
 15 B-B5, B-B2; 16 B-B4, B-B2

17 B-B5, B-B2; 18 B-B2, B-B2  
 19 B-B2, B-B2; 20 B-B2, B-B2  
 21 B-B2, B-B2; 22 B-B2, B-B2  
 23 B-B2, B-B2; 24 B-B2, B-B2  
 25 B-B2, B-B2; 26 B-B2, B-B2  
 27 B-B2, B-B2; 28 B-B2, B-B2  
 29 B-B2, B-B2; 30 B-B2, B-B2  
 31 B-B2, B-B2; 32 B-B2, B-B2  
 33 B-B2, B-B2; 34 B-B2, B-B2  
 35 B-B2, B-B2; 36 B-B2, B-B2  
 37 B-B2, B-B2; 38 B-B2, B-B2

Also, this is the wrong way for the black king. White could not have won after 18 K-B1.  
 19 B-B2, B-B2; 20 B-B2, B-B2  
 21 B-B2, B-B2; 22 B-B2, B-B2  
 23 B-B2, B-B2; 24 B-B2, B-B2  
 25 B-B2, B-B2; 26 B-B2, B-B2  
 27 B-B2, B-B2; 28 B-B2, B-B2  
 29 B-B2, B-B2; 30 B-B2, B-B2  
 31 B-B2, B-B2; 32 B-B2, B-B2  
 33 B-B2, B-B2; 34 B-B2, B-B2  
 35 B-B2, B-B2; 36 B-B2, B-B2  
 37 B-B2, B-B2; 38 B-B2, B-B2



**White to play.** How did the game finish? Grade 3 (medium).

**Solution to 6827 (Zabartov - English, London, 1983).**  
 (483/1P3p1/2q1p1p/3B4/1B3PP1/6BP/B-White to play.) The spectacular 47 Q-K5, QxQ, 48 P-B8-Qch, K-B2, 49 QxKch, KxQ, 50 K2-B7ch, K-K4, 51 KxQ left White with a decisive material advantage and he won on the 68th move.

**No 1184. Solution next week.**  
**A Mini (British Times, 1977)**  
 (1B8/1p4p1/4B3/1N1K3a/r4ap/1P1B1B/BB1/b2B4-10 white man, 8 black) White to play and mate in two moves.  
**Solution to No 1183 (Kipping)**  
 (B/3B1p2/4B2a/1B3a/r4ap/1P1B1B/BB1/b2B4-10 white man, 8 black) White to play and mate in two moves.  
 1 B-B5 (threatening 2 QxR, 2 K2-Q4 and 2 K2-K7) (a) 1 PxR, 2 Q-KR7 (b) 1 B-Q3ch, 2 K-K5, (c) 1 B-Q5ch, 2 K-K3, 3 B-B5

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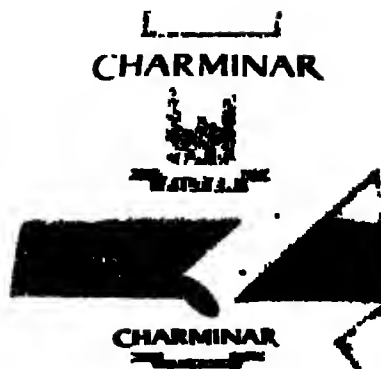
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# Sportsworld



WORLD CUP REVIEW

## Italian Renaissance

by Nicky Katsikis, 10; by John J. O'Steen, 32

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Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sargar  
Correspondents: Bombay: Harish Munwar; Madras: Ashok Kamath  
Staff Photographer: Nikhil Bhattacharya  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Best team

I THINK that you would be interested in the following eleven which I consider to be the best-ever one that India has ever produced. The team goes like this: Mushtaq Ali, S M Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, G R Vishwanath, M A K Pataudi (captain), Vinoo Mankad, Farookh Engineer, Kapil Dev, Nikhanj, Ramakant Desai, Mohanmed Nissar and B S Bedi. Twelfth man: E D Solkar. The persons, who I feel could easily have walked into this side and certainly should if any of the players fell ill, are Vijay Merchant for Mushtaq Ali, Lala Amarnath for Pataudi, Kirmani for Engineer and Prasanna for Bedi. If it ever was possible for this team to slight and take charge I would find nothing more fitting than to ask Betty Sai badhkar to take over the microphones and also request the editor of this magazine himself to write the match reports.

SOMNATH RAY,  
Calcutta

I DOUBT whether there could be an Indian team better than this one. Here it goes: Vijay Merchant, Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, Gundappa Vishwanath, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Lala Amarnath, Kapil Dev, Syed Kirmani, E A S Prasanna, Mohammed Nissar and Bishan Singh Bedi. Twelfth man: Ghulam Parkar.

P PADMAKUMAR,  
Madras

WITH reference to your publication dated 7 July, where you have invited readers to send their best ever Indian teams, my choice is here as follows: Pankaj Roy, Mushtaq Ali, Lala Amarnath, Vinoo Mankad, C K Nayudu (captain), F M Engineer, Kapil Dev, Prasanna, Subroto Guha, Chandrasekhar and E D Solkar.

ANJAN KUMAR MAJUMDER,  
Calcutta

MY TEAM reads like this: Sunil Gavaskar, Vinoo Mankad, Vijay Hazare, G R Vishwanath, Polly Umrigar, M A K Pataudi (captain), Kapil Dev, Amar Singh, Mohammed Nissar, E A S Prasanna and Bishan Singh Bedi. Twelfth man: E D Solkar.

SHIBAJIT DAS,  
SUDIP CHOUDHURY,  
A I S H A L A Y  
CHOUDHURY,  
Shillong

THE best Indian team since the days of C K Nayudu to that of Sunil Gavaskar is given here as follows: Vijay Merchant, S M Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, G R Vishwanath, Vinoo Mankad, M A K Pataudi, Farookh Engineer, Kapil Dev, Amar Singh, Mohammed Nissar, and B S Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: E D Solkar.

CHINMOY ROY,  
Calcutta

MY best Indian team is as follows: Vijay Merchant, Sunil Gavaskar, Lala Amarnath, Vijay Hazare, Polly Umrigar, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Farookh Engineer, Mohammed Nissar, Amar Singh, Vinoo Mankad and Subhash Gupte. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar.

SHYAMAL BHATTACHARJEE,  
Nagpur

IN response to your call I am putting down my choice of the best-ever Indian team since 1932. Here it is: Vijay Merchant, Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, Gundappa Vishwanath, Lala Amarnath, Vinoo Mankad, Kapil Dev, Syed Kirmani, Amar Singh, Mohammed Nissar and Subhash Gupte. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar.

M K KHAITAN,  
Raniganj

### Final say

After the third Test and with the losing of the series I have no doubt that Sunil Gavaskar will have a very 'lame' excuse to offer.

PRABAL GUHA,  
Calcutta.

## Editor's page



**I**t is not often that the Man of the Series, or even the Man of the Match award is given to a player of the losing side. Kapil Dev was the recipient of these honours and this only emphasises the impact that one individual made in England, a few days ago. No doubt Wisden will also recognise the achievement. It is therefore a shame that the combined efforts of the rest were not enough to beat a side which had been outplayed during the last winter.

The reasons were fairly apparent. By the time the batting came to terms with itself it was too late, and in a three Test series it is virtually impossible to gain a lost lead. Not that it would have made a great difference in this case, even if the tour had been longer, for to win a match it is necessary to bowl the opposition out twice and that patently was a daydream which eventually became a nightmare for the Indian bowlers. Nor were they helped by some lackadaisical and carefree fielding, which further stressed the limitations of the present Indian attack.

Looking back on the tour and taking into account

of the less successful ones, it would be comparatively easy to lay the blame on poor selection. It can be pointed out that not one selector has had the benefit of playing first-class cricket in England for almost a quarter of a century and even if the game as played over five days has seen no drastic changes in attitude, the same cannot be said for the ground conditions and new regulations which have been introduced in order to provide a demanding public with more entertainment. When Polly Umrigar last donned his pads in 1959, the wickets were left open to the elements, which helped to produce some striking bowling analyses; today the wickets are totally covered, making life that much easier for the batsmen. And yet the atmospheric conditions can allow a competent bowler to move the ball. This is exactly what did transpire. Throughout May, this year, England was blessed with sunshine, and the batsmen gifted with slow and flat wickets. Some of the less experienced, took partial advantage and scored, wondering, perhaps, why so much fuss was made about batting in England. As the first Test approached the climate changed, clouds appeared and there was a scent of rain in the breeze. At Lord's there was some bounce at the Nursery End, the ball wobbled a little and those same players who had hoped to continue scoring found themselves way out of their depth and unable at this late stage to adjust to new demands. The others, as already mentioned, either failed or found themselves in the runs too late for practical purposes. As such, it seems unfair to blame the selection committee for the lack of form of those who had more than proved themselves during the winter. Perhaps, and with the benefit of hindsight (a prerogative of the critic and the

journalist) the bowling could have been chosen with more imagination. Bowlers like Nayak and Randhir Singh were meant to work hard during the County games; neither was expected to create serious inroads into the English batting, which is more or less brought up facing medium-pacers. Instead, could not India have included a leg spinner, who by his very novelty may have caused more confusion amongst those, who by tradition have played this type of bowling with exaggerated care?

In any case, a tour of England as the Indians have so often found is no time for experiments (more youngsters have been marred than made). Here, there is no substitute for experience and the inclusion of Chauhan would have saved some embarrassment for Roy or Parker, though it is unlikely that the result would have been different. The lack of penetration in the bowling and the sense of urgency in the field were so evident that unless Indian cricket is able to find a solution to these deficiencies in quick order all we can expect is a mauling by the Pakistani batsmen.

And one last word addressed more to the tour than to you. On this trip the Indian team spent far too much time attending receptions and dinners held in their honour. Accepted that this is also a part of touring, but there is also a limit and standing around making idle chatter with mostly strangers can be more tiring than spending five hours in the field. It must be avoided or restricted severely, especially during Test matches.

*G. S. Ramani*

## Tour Review

# The summer of all-rounders

The recent series boiled down, with the passing of the Tests, into a personal struggle between the all-rounders. Cricket benefited though the competition between the two sides never suggested much excitement. A CORRESPONDENT elucidates

CONTRARY to the opinion of the Indian public, which must be now making a frenzied scramble for their tickets to catch their last glimpse of the summer's heroes, it may come as a surprise but it is sadly true that as far as competition between the two sides served the criterion the series between India and England picked up exactly from where 'Gentle' Fletcher and 'Sunny' Gavaskar had left off at Kanpur last year.

The difference between the two sides was too great for the Indians to pose any pretensions for the rubber and the only time—and that wasn't for too long—that lethargic cricket correspondents rubbed their eyes and sat up fully awake was when India looked imminently in store for a follow-on and subsequent disaster.

Of course, individual performances did intermittently disturb the monotony and if that angle were to be picked up then it all levelled down to the battle of the all-rounders, of a kind that England has not seen for long, very long between two titans at the highest level. And it was fortunately coincidental that both should strike form at once—to be absolutely fair, Botham has been in one continuous appointment with success since the Bangalore Test last year—and lead onward, albeit individually to a summer to remember.

When the question of Kapil's rejuvenation comes up one is reminded greatly of that miserable visit of 1979 when frankly he had become the target of much indulgent advice with the result that his natural faculties were being hindered.

He had begun to worry far too much about the swing of the ball and had extended carefree batting to a degree of exaggerated caution. The result was that he failed at what might just have won him any gamble with hands tied behind his back and with the opponents breathing fire down his neck. At The Oval, three years ago, when just a few runs sifted between India and victory Kapil was sent in in the hope that he would do the usual. He got a four but holed out to Botham at the boundary's edge and gamble was lost, the match drawn.

Today if that match were to be played again, Brearley would have had time to jump into his car and have his cup of tea in Middlesex at sundown. Kapil, in all probability, would have hit a near hundred in

Indian supporters in varying attire gyrate to the tunes of friends after Shastri and Viswanath had notched up the 100 of the partnership at The Oval



record time, run away with the Man of the Match award and made sure that the series was squared. "When I asked for instructions," he went on record after his once-in-a-lifetime 89 at Lord's, this year, "the captain said, 'Carry on exactly how you feel'." Sunil Gavaskar could not have done his lieutenant and his country more good.

For Ian Botham, on the other hand, it was just one of those summers, if you have read the newspapers in 1981 and know exactly what I am talking about. His lowest score in the series was 67 and he batted in an incredible crescendo, his batting permed considerably with a touch of responsibility. Not exactly utilitarian, something unique, something very much of his own. When his sledgehammer hitting compelled the Indian captain to send his men packing into a defensive field designed to cut off the fours, Botham would quite naturally revert to his tap-and-run delicacies.

The result was that Gavaskar never hit upon the master equation, had his bowling carted around while the fieldsmen competed amongst themselves for the most number of catches dropped. A responsible member of the Board went on record before the team had embarked that this was the best Indian fielding side that was being sent abroad. You were sure if you had not believed him.

Coming back to Botham, the shortened tour of three Tests only served to alleviate the Indians' discomfiture against Botham's increasing batting bashi bazarouery. In his last nine innings against India he has reached the fifty mark in as many as eight, comprising which are two hundreds and one double century. It may send the statistical souls scurrying to know that had Botham been able to convert his second innings 31 at Calcutta, last winter, into a half hundred he would have by now been the recipient of many an accolade. His double century would have brought up his ninth successive innings of over fifty and that would have been a world record, leaving Irvton Weekes way behind and unawares. So much for responsibility, dash and consistency that is the Scunthorpe striker!

Coming now to the rather mind-boggling question of finding the supremo between the prides of India and England, one would need to elucidate make certain provisions before handing out the palms, if ever they were meant to be handed out to one and not both together. Ian Botham, who came into Test cricket primarily as a bowler, is undoubtedly the more responsible as far as batting goes as the last two series have amply proved. From a biff-bang boy Botham has elevated himself to a determined 'sticker' alternating pyrotechnics with an enforced ability to graft. From just an obscure



Botham shows signs of weariness as he reaches his first double century in Tests. The scoreboard tells the tale but what it missed out was that it was the third fastest 200 by an Englishman.



Somerset pigeon bird shooter he has outgrown himself into one of the most aggressive and dependable batsmen in the world. Kapil, meanwhile, is tempered with almost as much of aggression, but in method of approach is vastly to the contrary. Though he is supple in the wrists and some of his shots would remind one of the India rubber flicks of his batting order predecessor, Vishwanath, what he most definitely lacks is the capacity to glue himself to the crease and score off the conveyor belt. Sometimes his urgency prompts that he is in a hurry to catch the evening train and not hold out in the endeavour of preparing for bed and breakfast at the crease till the following morning. Rather odd for an immensely talented cricketer in the

#### Aeroplane Age

But what can certainly be said in his favour and defence is his panache for playing an innings so characteristic of his nature. That is why Kapil is such a compelling man to watch. Decades ago, Sir Neville Cardus had written that he knew of only one man who either played true to his nature or immediately got out. He was referring to Harold Gimblett. If Cardus had survived into a day as late as this and thought it fit for his copy to go into a later edition he would have added Kapil's name up there.

Digressing to the rest, one finds that Dilip Doshi fared well after the Lord's Test and proceeded to capture his Test best at Old Trafford. But it must be brought to notice that

also to blame partly for his poor bowling in the first Test was his captain himself. When the breeze was pushing the vanes just where it would have made Doshi frisk in glee and from an end where the slope would have made minutes difficult for England's front-liners, Gavaskar had him despatched to the other end and threw the ball to Shastri to reap his favourite conditions. Some days later, Robin Marlar subtly put it across in *The Times*. "Doshi, who continually has to win Gavaskar's esteem." "You bet there was a catch somewhere!"

Another Indian bowler, more blatantly noticeable by the end of the series, was about the opening fiasco. Nayak's promotion to the magic slot did have many brows curving upwards in the Press Box and rightly, too. This has been one facet of the tour that Gavaskar would like to forget very soon. His ankle-bust made it possible for some of the lesser lights to bask in the sunshine higher up. That made it eight openers for India in 10 Tests. During the last Test when the manager of the Indian team was asked to comment about Ghulam Parkar, the reply was forthcoming that Parkar was a talented opening batsman and an efficient club wicketkeeper. Where do they start recruiting from these days?

When the Indian team returns home—most of them are off to the United States—there will be trying times for many but capers of red will be laid out for one—Sandeep Patil. His gamble before the Old Trafford encounter was one that 19 out of 20 captains would never have taken. And Patil, so mysteriously chosen under the garb of an additional medium pacer, was not given a bowl but proceeded to hit up one of the most powerful hundreds against an Indian's name. He had begun with a rasping square-cut for three, thus, emphasising a vital truth that he had very little to lose under the circumstances. Confidence returned as fast as the shots—at one stage it was 24 runs in an over of Willis!—and the man was made Patil, who at one time was giving Dilip Doshi serious competition in finishing last in the tour averages ended up at the dizzy top of the Test averages from either side.

They say that when a man is dying his life passes from in front of him in a swift panorama. If there is any truth in it then this writer shall most certainly see Kapil heaving Botham into the galleries at Lord's, Botham in turn acknowledging cheers for his 200, pug-nosed Malhotra's face shooting a grin from ear to ear with Patil's incredible century coming up and lastly—how can it be forgotten?—Gavaskar being led off with a dismembered ankle at The Oval. And in that order, too. It was appropriate, the end, that is. It, more or less, summed it up for India.



Of Kapil's 89 at Lord's John Woodcock wrote "In my mind Kapil would, in any age, have been a great asset to the game." Here he drives one. Could the helmet have aided the confidence?



ENGLAND VERSUS PAKISTAN  
ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

# England excel

A CORRESPONDENT files his despatch on the two one-day internationals, in which England swamped Pakistan comfortably

**T**HERE were many long faces at Trent Bridge after the result between England and Pakistan had borne itself out for many speculators associated closely with the fluctuating fortunes of a bull market had put their end of the week leftovers on

Pakistan and paid for it (no pun intended). Frankly speaking, this writer would not blame their foresight for Pakistan on paper looked intimidating especially after their three wins over the County sides—each by an innings—being more

close to recent memory. And it seemed partly ironical that a South African—the third party—should have played the protagonist and come out with flying 'colours' in a match that appeared to be Pakistan's.

Skipper Imran Khan was of the opinion that "We've seen very mediocre County bowling, even by Pakistani standards, since we arrived in England. It's all very disconcerting." Later, he was to add "I feel at the moment that we are at equal strength. It will depend on our batting." But at Nottingham what gave the gamble away was the howling as the other department stood up to acquit itself fairly successfully and at one juncture, when Mohsin Khan and Mudassar Nazar had put up more than a 100, the outcome seemed to be definitely outlined and the visitors home and dry.

Both the Pakistani openers had enjoyed, till this part of the itinerary, a very successful visit and this leg was no exception. Mudassar Nazar had stood out with a high degree of consistency, scoring 211 versus Sussex and 163 against Glamorgan, both not out. Mohsin Khan, who reached his highest Test score earlier in the year, showed signs of finally having been elevated to maturity after his two century innings of 151 and 165 on this tour and a near three figure one against Somerset. As many as 102 were built on by the two in fiery tandem before Mudassar Nazar's running himself out brought forward the first signs of a setback. Mudassar Nazar had walked too far down the wicket and when Mohsin's return shot down the pitch was stopped by the bowler—England's newest 'catch'—Eddie Hemmings, the son of the former Pakistani opener at 51 was caught in no man's land and far away from home.

Mohsin Khan was swallowed by the pavilion almost immediately after. Just one ball later, when he was standing three runs short of an imminent half-century, he tried to find a gap in Willis' field with a drive off Botham but, in trying to force across the line, miscalculated and his middle stump was wicketed.

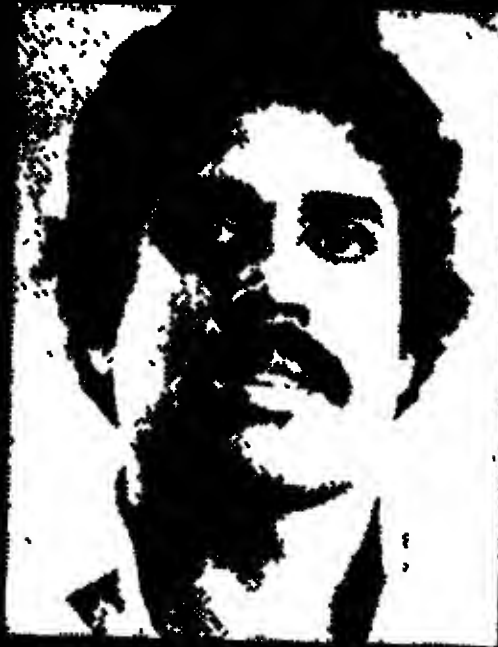
Pakistan lunched at 128 for two after which the blitzkrieg was taken up in the night earnest by Zaheer Abbas. There were flashes of the elegance of yore coupled effectively with the one-day mood before Zaheer, at 53, was trapped in front and Derek Pringle had claimed his first wicket of the match.

Though there was little of pyrotechnics on an extended lease after that, bits and pieces from Mian-dad (28), Majid Khan (23) and Imran (16 not out) were forthcoming till at last Pakistan consumed their 55 overs, gathered a round 250 for six wickets before occupying them.



Allen Lamb—a fluent 118 was the mastermind

**THEY COULDN'T BEAT THE MAN  
WHO SHAVES WITH SWISH.**



*Congratulations to Kapil Dev  
on being declared  
'Man of the Series'.*



**From the makers of Swish Stainless**

selves with the problem of bowling England out

It never came about. Though the initial glance at the scorebook revealed that runs at the rate of four runs and a half per over would be required it was always a reasoning, with the Pakistan bowling in mind, that it was going to be increasingly difficult. But the Englishmen defied the odds with a resounding reply in what is turning out gradually as another incredibly successful summer for English cricket.

Bob Willis, England's captain, made a positive approach evident from the very beginning when in retaliation he promoted David Gower to open the innings in accompaniment with Chris Tavare. In a way, Gower's promotion seems justified, explained by his apparent lack of frenzy to go after his strokes and yet keep the scoreboard moving. But in this season of wilting proficiency this writer wonders whether sending him high up in the line up did any good in restoring an already sagging morale. For Gower went for 17 while Chris Tavare, who had been offered a stool in jest for his first gear bating at The Oval just four days before, made a typical 48 that served to keep the stall going from one end.

But England's search for the ultimate might not have been attended by success had it not been for Allan Lamb. He has been in wonderful nick right through the summer and picked up from his Oval hundred with another in England's hour of hope. Lamb has always been noted for his exceptional ease and this he had exemplified never better than in the Lord's Test in June, when he drove Kapil Dev for a four off the very first ball of the last morning in England's moments of uncertainty. On this occasion he demonstrated a stern fibre of temperament beyond argument, his unusually efficient 118 devoid of any visible trace of tentativeness or naked error. Mike Gatting, who at present has treated his place among the top of the County averages more as a pre-emptive right than as a matter of skill and some luck chipped in with some chunky support and England made the day, as many as 75 overs before estimated schedule.

**IMRAN KHAN's** threat of making the English pay the price for Kashmir—a historical contention with its roots in the Mountbatten era—took another jolting when his trusted generals failed him and perished in the attempt of making a firm bid to square the one-day series. That made it the fourth win for England in as many matches this summer in over-limt games and if things go as salubriously in Australia this winter, it would need no exertion for even a phlegmatic brain to predict as to who shall be the favourites for the Prudential Cup, next year.

Unlike the encounter at Trent

Bridge, it was England who set the pace at Manchester and finally drew the net of errors around the visitors much too early for their comfort. And for England the points of satisfaction must have brewed from the success stories and the resurrection of Mike Gatting, blossoming to the extreme now in a role that is not too unfamiliar with his method of belligerence. The other man to have saved the selectors some embarrassment was Derek Pringle, the topic of much muffled discussion in journalistic gatherings. Finally, the lad, right out from Cambridge with a light blue wrist band to highlight the daring blood of youth and advertise growing adventure, came good after many a tentative probing down the pitch.

Talking of Qadir brings an engrossing aspect to mind. This leg-spinner, spinning webs that would have rivalled that of a spider's, has been reducing the most of England's batsmen to insomniacs. Most of the cricket writers, here in England, are building up a professional rivalry between him and Ian Botham with a view to increasing gate returns and this can reasonably be explained by this one-day match itself. Had Qadir been played and thrashed—Iqbal Qasim was bowled at Old Trafford and his eight overs yielded 76 runs—the bubble would instantly have been pricked and all tricks up Pakistan's long sleeve would have exposed themselves. Instead, Qadir was conveniently stored in cotton wool and expected to be released during the first Test in the expectation of putting the majority of England's batsmen to seed. The theory may well succeed. English batsmen, who are by now known for their instant discomfort at the sight of a leg spinner—Qadir captured 34 wickets in the first five matches of the tour—may just revert to inflated caution or indiscretionary strokeplay and lose the day.

At Old Trafford England, like seasoned Thespians performing in front of a swelling crowd of 20,000, ran up an incredible 295 which is seldom bettered in one-day encounters. And this time Gower vindicated Willis' perseverance, scored 33 and the cart was moving. Tavare at the other end, usually the undemonstrative of batsmen, ran himself out with the team score at 32 but that did little to weaken England's cause. Allan Lamb's 27, very typical runs, compensated for the damage while Gower perished, too only to allow an impatient Gatting to dig his gloved fingers deeper into Pakistan's throat. This Middlesex batsman, the modern-day Little John right out from Sherwood Forest, started his plundering early and the trend was set. Botham, who had by then entered the fray, made it twosome and they ventured out together to make it a long afternoon for Pakistan and as

embarrassing.

At lunch, Botham and Gatting were batting with 11 and 30 respectively and they immediately set out for the crash course after reinforcements. Gatting made advancement to his personal score to reach 76 without much fuss while Botham reacted in a manner that has now become an accepted form of his attack rather than one reserved for junctures of overpressure. He sent Qasim serenely over the top on two occasions but fell to Imran Khan, caught Wasim Raja, just on the verge of a half century off 27 balls. Gatting failed to make home and beat the throw, run out, but that merely gave the lead to refreshed youngsters in the wing to breathe the air and prove themselves. Pringle made a well-compiled and unbeaten 34, while Miller chipped in with a 26 that stamped him out more as an all-rounder than as a trundler employed in breaks.

The target of beating England at an overly rate of 5.38 seemed Quixotic enough and Pakistan who revived in parts, did not seem to be equal to it. In a limited-over game though the tally of wickets is secondary, the rapid loss of a couple can do nothing but retard the steady advance towards the ultimate. And so it was with Pakistan, who lost their first two wickets within three runs after Mudassar Nazar and Mohsin Khan had applied themselves fluently to a firm foundation of 52 in rippity time. There was partial restoration when Zaheer and Mansoor Akhtar—with a century before lunch under his belt in one of the County encounters—showed signs of getting set but Pringle edged out Abbas and, to chuck the flint to their chances, Mansoor Akhtar was run out. From then on, the struggle materialised itself and Majid was bowled for five by Miller.

A 60-run stand between skipper Imran Khan and Wasim Raja alleviated frustration, then mounting. There was momentary hope when they flourished especially with dashing Raja's flashing blade always a delight, keeping England's potency temporarily at bay with a fine 60. Sadly, it never came to use. Imran Khan, too, failed to last out, falling to Miller's wiles for 31. The end of the story was at hand. Naqqash, with no authentic pretensions to batting, ran himself out for only one, Bari followed with four but by then the spinnaker had sunk to 201 for eight wickets. Iqbal Qasim contributed 13 until the fight spluttered out at 222, Pakistan being beaten by 73 runs.

However, this is not reason enough for hoisting the flags of mourning. Very much like the fates of their geographical neighbours, Pakistan could show their truer shades with the coming of the Tests. And if they do then it shall be a summer to remember.

**DAVIS CUP**

# Swedes inject a touch of freshness

**GEORGE K. GEORGE** reports on how the United States scraped past rivals Sweden

**A**S the Italians and Americans were going crazy on the streets of cities like New York, celebrating Italy's World Cup soccer victory, a young American patriot was waging the longest battle of his career in St Louis. John Patrick McEnroe, Jr., at this time was carrying his country almost single-handedly to the semi-finals of the Davis Cup after a six-and-a-half-hour duel against Mats Wilander of Sweden.

It was an ordeal for McEnroe and the tennis enthusiasts who were glued to their television sets soon after the World Cup finals. It was the final match of the second round tie between Sweden and the U.S. with both countries tied, two matches apiece.

The match which lasted six hours and 32 minutes, and 79 games with a 32 game third set, revealed how important the Davis Cup has become once again. John McEnroe and Mats

Wilander had more than personal reputations at stake in this encounter.

A win or a loss would not make any substantial difference to their careers. But, the crucial final match would have a profound impact on this year's Davis Cup. It was important for the tournament that McEnroe and his team-mates stayed alive in it, to keep it going in full swing till the finals.

"Davis Cup matches in the fifth set is what tennis is all about," said U.S. captain Arthur Ashe. "The fifth set separates the men from the boys."

Indeed it did. Sweden had a team of "boys." The oldest player in the team was Anders Jarryd, who will be 21 in another week. French champion Mats Wilander (17) and doubles player Hans Simonsson are still boys when compared to most Davis Cup players. But the lads gave the men the scare of their lives, before con-

ceding a 2-3 victory.

Before Wimbledon, there were rumours that Bjorn Borg would play for Sweden. But once again the mystery man was missing. The burden fell on one of the youngest Davis Cup teams in history for the second time this year. But Wilander's miracle at Paris had given the Swedish team an unexpected shot in the arm.

In the opening singles, John McEnroe had a fairly easy win over Jarryd after a 10-8 first set. Wilander levelled the match score with a 6-4, 7-5, 3-6, 3-6, 6-0 display against Eliot Teltscher. The relentless baseline game of the Swede prevailed over the skill of the American. In their only previous meeting, Teltscher had won 6-3, 6-0. But that was before Paris 1982.

The doubles was indeed a one-sided affair. McEnroe teamed up with his regular partner Peter Fleming. It was their first match after their loss in the Wimbledon finals. The 6-4, 6-3, 6-0 score is ample indication of the ease with which they overcame Jarryd and Simonsson. In the beginning of the match Simonsson held serve at love. He looked the stronger of the combination, but it was his serve that the Americans broke in the first set to take the lead.

It was broken again in the fourth game of the second set. That gave the Americans a 4-1 lead. The third set was McEnroe and Fleming all the way. Everything they did was just right and it was a clean sweep.

So far the tie seemed to be going the American way. But before the reverse singles began on Sunday, trouble had started. Eliot Teltscher, who was scheduled to meet Jarryd, was out of the tie. During practice he had suffered from "acute tendinitis of the lumbago muscle," which is like a muscle strain. He was taken to St. John's Hospital and based on the doctor's report, referee Bob Howe allowed a substitution. Brian Gottfried took Teltscher's place.

It was Gottfried at his worst, at least in the first two sets. Jarryd came up with an impressive array of strokes and jumped into a 4-0 lead. The first set took only 32 minutes, as did the second. The score was 6-2 in both in favour of the Swede. Jarryd's ground strokes were perfect and he came to the net at every possible opportunity.

Jarryd broke at love in the opening game of the third set. But Gottfried broke back in the very next game. Jarryd broke again and so did Gottfried. That put the American ahead at 4-3. Then he had an advantage against Jarryd, but the young Swede swept the next 11 points to clinch the match for his country.

That made the McEnroe-Wilander match crucial. McEnroe did business as usual and took the first set in almost an hour at 9-7. The second set took only half that time and Wilander was granted only two games. The crowd at Checker Dome were getting



*McEnroe puts everything into a service he barely outlasted Wilander to give his team the rubber*

ready for an easy wrap up by McEnroe.

Then the unexpected happened Mats Wilander took the third set 17-15. It was shocking, frustrating and frightening. It looked as if the mighty United States would be humiliated by a bunch of kids from Sweden. The ghost of Bjorn Borg seemed to loom over the Checker-dome. The crowd froze in silence and watched helplessly as John McEnroe put everything he had into it, without luck.

This is how it went. Wilander held serve in the first game and McEnroe took the second. Then he broke Wilander to lead 2-1. At this stage, he was in full command, doing everything the way he wanted. In the seventh game McEnroe had four break points against Wilander. But the latter fought off four deuces and held serve. It was the turning point in the match.

Then Wilander broke McEnroe's serve to level at 4-4. That was the beginning of the marathon. Both players held serve for the next 23 games. McEnroe had break points in three different games. But Wilander's patience prevailed on all these occasions. Finally, in the 32nd game, McEnroe double faulted at break point and Wilander accepted the favour with gratitude.

That setback upset the rhythm of McEnroe's game. He seemed dejected. Wilander capitalised on the lapse and took the third set 6-3 in just 33 minutes.

The fifth set began with Wilander in command once again. He held McEnroe at deuce four times and held an advantage. But McEnroe managed to hang on to hold serve. McEnroe reacted to a call by lineswoman Edie Brown by hitting the ball past her and umpire Bob Jenkins of Wimbledon fame penalised him a point. The crowd roared in total disapproval of the umpire's gesture and cheered wildly as their hero produced a couple of winners.

Then he broke Wilander's serve, the first time in 40 games, to command a crucial 2-0 lead. But Wilander broke him back in the very next with some excellent passing shots from the baseline. The crowd cheered McEnroe all the way through the next few games and victory was in sight as he held serve in the 13th game with two aces.

Then he broke Wilander to take the match and the quarter-final tie. As a weak return by Wilander hit the net, John McEnroe jumped on the shoulders of Arthur Ashe like a little kid who couldn't hide his emotions. It looked so much unlike John McEnroe.

This was the longest match of McEnroe's career. It was also the longest Davis Cup match since the challenge round format has been eliminated. The longest Davis Cup match by an American was played by



*Wilander hits a bustling backhand*

Dennis Ralston against Iyo Pimental of Venezuela in 1963.

"It's a frustrating feeling, believe me," said McEnroe. "But I hung in there and I'm happy. It was the longest match I've played, and I can tell you for a fact that my body isn't feeling very good."

Mats Wilander was not satisfied with his brilliant performance. "I'm disappointed," he said. "You should always be disappointed when you lose." After all, what else could be expected from a youngster like Wilander who plays every point to win.

What Wilander couldn't do in spite of the 2-hour 39-minute marathon set—namely pull off an upset at this year's Davis Cup quarter-finals—came from Yannick Noah of France. Noah beat the Czechs with the help of his new doubles partner Henri Lancontre. He began the campaign by beating Thomas Smid. Then he had the doubles victory over Smid and Pavel Slozil. After this he took on Lendl who had beaten Thierry Tulasne in a five-setter. Noah's 6-2, 3-6, 7-9, 6-3, 6-4 victory gave France a 3-1 lead over the most formidable team of the year. The final match between Smid and Tulasne ended as Smid led 1-2 in the first set. The French youngster, who had suffered

from sunstroke retired, at this stage.

As the Czechs were being eliminated in Paris, New Zealand overcame Italy 3-2 at Cervia, Italy. Chris Lewis clinched the series against New Zealand by beating veteran Adriano Panatta, to record the best Kiwi show in the Davis Cup.

Australia prevailed over Chile by sweeping the first three matches. The reverse singles proved to be more exciting as Mark Edmondson lost to Ricardo Acuna in five sets. But John Fitzgerald was in no mood for a giveaway. In the final match he played five sets to overcome Pedro Rebolledo. It was a gruelling affair as both players went at each other as if it were a final with high stakes involved. Incidentally, it was the first time that Acuna had played on grass.

New Zealand will meet France in Paris and the U.S.A. will take on the Australians in Perth. Playing in Perth will not be to the advantage of the Americans. But the Davis Cup means so much to Ashe and McEnroe that they will pull all the tricks out of their bag to move to the finals.

This round of the Davis Cup certainly belonged to the younger generation of players. Their presence and performance have given vitality and glamour to the Davis Cup.



**WORLD CUP REVIEW**

# Italian Renaissance

**P. K. BANERJEE**, just back from Spain, explains what really went wrong with Brazil. In addition, he feels, there were lessons aplenty to be learnt from watching the world's top teams in action

**W**ITH regard to the new setup involving 24 teams in the final stages of the World Cup, I would like to point out that the system has its disadvantages as well as obvious advantages. It means that more than 50 matches have to be played over a period of three weeks and I personally feel that this places too great a demand on the players. One must remember that these men are required to maintain peak form over this period and the more drawnout the tournament, the greater the demands on physical fitness and stamina. No man or team for that matter can ever hope to play a world class tournament for such a long period.

However, on the other hand, it does

have certain plus points. There have been a lot of newcomers in the World Cup arena and most of them have acquitted themselves very well, like Algeria, Cameroon and Kuwait.

No real assessment is possible because of the vastness of the tournament and all that is possible is for one to review the matches one has seen. One point that I should like to emphasise is that some teams started out brilliantly but faded out as the tournament went on. The prime offenders in this respect were Brazil, while others like the new World Cup champions Italy, started out on a very defensive note but came out brilliantly at the end.

One must, of course, touch on what

happened to Brazil. They were widely regarded as the favourites to dethrone Argentina, but they inexplicably failed to do so. The turning point of this World Cup tournament was the match between Brazil and Italy. The Brazilian players by nature play an attacking game and even though they only really needed a draw in this game, one never really expected them to play with that intention dominating their style of play. It is impossible for a side to change its attitude to the game, for this is something that is always developing. I would not say that their defeat was due to any bad planning by coach Tele Santana but because of the shortcomings of the players.

*The Italians do a lap of honour with the world's most prized soccer trophy*







Jubilant Italian fans, waving flags and chanting salute the winners

themselves. They made one very elementary tactical blunder.

They concentrated on the attack and seemed to ignore the basic need to fall back in defence whenever required. Tele Santana was literally shouting himself hoarse on the sidelines for his players to fall back, but they paid no heed to what he was saying. It was not surprising, then, that they paid the price for their folly.

Two of the goals that Italy scored against them in this match were literally gifts on a platter. One of these was a bad error on the part of the Brazilian goalkeeper, Waldi Peres. As is commonly known, South American custodians are traditionally weak, but this was really surprising. In particular, the second goal scored by Italy was one that I should like to describe, as this will amply illustrate the fashion in which the game was played. The Brazilians had possession of the ball and the right back and the right stopper back were passing between each other. In an attempt to find their own left stopper, they crossed the ball and here they made an elementary error.

While doing so, they failed to notice that the Italian danger man, Paolo Rossi, was lurking in the area.

The latter obviously seized the chance, for it was clear that such a lapse on the part of the Brazilians would not come again in a hurry. He shot past Peres and that, literally,

was the last nail in the Brazilians' coffin.

Brazil did not deserve to emerge as the world champions. Any side that plays in such a fashion should be written off immediately. It is not just good football that makes a champion side. It is also one's approach to the game itself. One feels sorry for them but then, that is how soccer is played at the highest level. No team will allow you to make a mistake and get away with it. Playing the way they were, Brazil could not hope to take the trophy home. But they are a wonderful side and will be a threat for years to come.

They were a very carefree side during the whole tournament and that is what, in the ultimate analysis, brought about their downfall. At the same time, however, I would like to mention that I was very impressed with their second goal against Italy in the same encounter. In my opinion, it was the best goal of the World Cup. They were outnumbered in the situation, to start with, as there were only five Brazilians in the picture against seven Italians. Converting a situation like this is what counts and Brazil pulled this off with the style and panache that makes them such a difficult side to beat. Even though this itself was a brilliant goal, they should have exerted themselves that little bit more and had they succeeded in that, perhaps we would have witnessed a Brazil West Germany final instead.

Undoubtedly, Italy was a deserving side. They were by far the most cautious team. They were methodical and well organised and most important of all, they always gave the impression of playing well within themselves. They were an excellent side, yet they were not as attractive to watch as say, the Brazilians. They knew what their limitations were and they played according to this, organising their game and their tactics accordingly. In addition, they were the most effective side on view in Spain and in this respect, they were closely followed by both Poland and Russia.

Purely from the spectator viewpoint, the most attractive team to watch was, without a doubt, Brazil. However, France and Belgium did not lag far behind in this respect. Belgium played inspired football against the defending champions, Argentina in the opening encounter and that goal by the talented Edwin Vandenberghe sealed the fate of Passarella's team. Vandenberghe has been performing consistently for his country and has been largely instrumental in Belgium's successes on the Continent and in Europe. His goal gave Belgium incredible impetus, but they did not quite fulfil expectations after that magnificent showing against Argentina.

I was very impressed by the manner in which the French handled their World Cup campaign. Though their players were shorter than the

other superstars on view, they never allowed this to handicap them. They were a hairsbreadth away from entering the final of the World Cup in that truly incredible match against West Germany, when they led 3-1 in extra time. But it was at this stage that the German coach, the experienced Jupp Derwall, brought Rummenigge into the fray. He had not played this man in the game, and was literally keeping him in reserve for a crisis. A crisis it was, and how magnificently this striker responded. It was patently clear to all and sundry that the French were the luckless victims of bad refereeing. During the sudden death, the West German goalkeeper Schumacher had begun to move before the ball was kicked, but the referee either failed to notice this or chose to overlook it. I think that the only people who

were not aware of this were the three officials in whose hands the match rested.

All goalkeepers have now started moving before the actual kick is taken, because the ball travels nearly double the speed of the custodian's reflexes. I can further illustrate this point with an example from the final itself. Once again, Schumacher was the offender. Italy's Cabrini took the penalty but the golden opportunity went abegging. He came in to take the kick from a very acute angle and Schumacher seemed to sense that the ball was going to enter the left side of the net. Accordingly, he began moving and Cabrini, sensing this, tried to place the ball even wider than the goalkeeper had anticipated. What happened is now history, but the fact that the ball went wide of the net is

not entirely the fault of Antonio Cabrini.

Another important fact that was amply borne out in Spain was that there are basically three different types of midfielders. The first can be classified as those players who are 75 per cent defensive and 25 per cent attackers. In this group, the most outstanding player was without doubt the Italian Claudio Gentile. He was the one who nullified the moves of the danger men, Maradona, Zico and Rummenigge. Had Gentile not been present, Italy would not have returned home with the Cup. He was not a very gentlemanly player, but he certainly did the job for Italy. I would rate Paul Breitner of West Germany as second to Gentile in this category. The second category of midfielders consisted of those who combined attack and defence in equal proportions and Ardiles was the most impressive here. The third category consists of those players who are 75 per cent attackers and 25 per cent defenders. Here it was the coloured Frenchman Jean Tigana who stood out.

The two countries that utilised their liberties to the best possible advantage were Italy and West Germany. Perhaps it is no mere coincidence that these were the two sides that met in the final. For the Italians, Scirea stood out, while Stielke played the hero's role for West Germany.

Countries like France played the 3-3-4 system, which is actually four defenders and a hind sacker.

THE two players who impressed me the most were Bruno Conti of Italy and the Argentine captain Daniel Passarella. The latter was head and shoulders above other attacking deep defenders. He can beat anybody to the ball and out jump his opponents. Passarella was outstanding in the air. His accuracy of heading needs to be admired and I can think of at least six occasions when his headers hit the post. Just a word about Mario Kempes in my opinion, he is an overrated player, although he managed, with the help of a little luck, to score a few goals. Bruno Conti was irrepressible. He has the uncanny ability to play as a roving forward. He is as impressive on the wing as he is as a striker. Talking of strikers the two names that immediately come to mind are Zbigniew Boniek of Poland and the super star of Espana '82 Paolo Rossi. Boniek's hat-trick was one of the best ever seen in the history of the World Cup. Rossi, as many football critics have said, "smells" goals. He is not the tallest of players but nullifies this disadvantage by fine opportunism.

The only team that used a genuine positive winger were the West Germans, in the form of Pierre Littbarski. The youngest player of the World Cup Norman Whiteside was a re-

Italians Antonio Cabrini (left) and Claudio Gentile jubilate on top of three other team-mates after their side's third goal against West Germany in the final



freshing sight in the Irish forward-line

England played cup style football, and were so very different from other European teams I had read a lot about Ron Greenwood's boys and was a trifle disappointed with their performance. The English rely on the conversion of centres to score their goals. This is not always useful. In their match against Spain, there must have been at least 30 occasions when the English floated the ball into the opponent's penalty area from the wing. This method has its drawbacks. One must, however, admit that the English forwards tried very hard to make the best of their chances.

Many people, I am sure, will be wondering whether I am going to implement any of the moves and tactics for the Indian team. I will certainly try, but one cannot expect to change things overnight. A lot depends on the ability of the player himself and I sincerely hope that the players under me in the Indian team, keen, as they are, will benefit from my experiences in Spain. We must know how to organise our defence, attack at the right moment and interchange positions. A day will soon come when football will be played with all players, except the goalkeeper, moving up and down the field, as is done on a basketball court.

Coming back to the World Cup under review, it was really unfortunate that Argentina, Brazil and Italy found themselves in the same group in the final round. Here Italy pulled off the two biggest upsets of the tournament. Cameroon, Kuwait and Algeria turned on brilliant performances. I fully sympathise with Algeria, as Germany and Austria conspired to keep them out of the second round. Even patriotic Germans felt that the match was fixed, football had been raped. The Kuwaiti attack was very impressive but they would have reaped richer harvest if they played with a tidy defence.

A very important difference between Indian football and that which I saw in the World Cup was the fact that unlike us the attackers play very important roles in defence. Even a striker tackles very hard and at no stage lets up. On many an occasion we saw Zico and Boniek tackling even harder than what our Indian defenders do. Another essential difference between the different approaches to football is best illustrated when we consider the role of coaches. Here in India—not that I am complaining—the coach does not always have the final say. Abroad, however, the coaches of teams have absolute authority, and this is what I particularly want to stress. He chalks out his programme, his assistants—everything is left up to him and no one interferes. The whole function-

ing of the team—strategy, tactics and moves all worked out by the coach. The success of the team revolves around him. Take Enzo Bearzot for an example. We all know very well that it was he who played the most important part in the Italian triumph in Madrid. The victory was the culmination of many years of hard labour put in by Enzo, who is an introvert by nature with a picture of melancholy his major trait. Remember the Italians were the only team to beat Argentina, the victors of the 1978 Finals in Buenos Aires and once again the Italian coach played his part efficiently. He is a highly respected man and I am indeed happy that he packed the glittering World Cup safely in his bag on the plane back from Madrid.

The Finals for me was an unforget-

able experience and I am already looking forward to Columbia. As much as I detest making predictions, the next World Cup winners will most probably be from South America. Brazil might after all redeem themselves four years from now.

More than anything else this World Cup exemplified the direction being taken by the game. In Europe, the greatest emphasis is on the line of defence. This was clearly borne out by the style of play of the champions, who were fastest off the mark when it came to attack. The other continental sides lacked this speed. The Latin American teams played a far more positive game and their greatest asset was that their players were all capable of innovation.

In the opinion of a number of soccer fans, the disappointment of

*What a goal! Zico stuns the crowd—and the opposition—with his precise overhead kick to score the first of his team's four goals against New Zealand. His second followed barely two minutes later.*



the World Cup was the talented Argentinian, Diego Maradona. Inevitably, he has been compared with Pele, but the latter was a hypnotic, extremely deceptive player whereas Maradona is a modern footballer in every sense of the term.

He lurks in midfield, slightly behind the forwards, in the fashion of Pele during the Mexico World Cup. I would say that Maradona is the faster of the two but it is impossible to assert that one or the other is more skilful. The game is constantly changing and it has changed since the era of Pele so comparing these two players is a tricky task that is best left alone.

Maradona had a very good year in 1981 and judging by all accounts, he really had some good matches. Just before the World Cup he was in tremendous form even though there were rumours that he was suffering from a groin injury. One does not know what exactly went wrong with him in Spain, but he is far from finished. He is the sort of player who is always doing something on the field, either initiating an attack or breaking up a raid by the opposing forwards. He does not believe in playing at less than optimum speed, which is really amazing when you consider how fast the game is. He is very, very fast on his feet and there can be no two opinions about that.

Since he is always so much a part of the game, this places a great deal of pressure on the opponents, who have to deploy at least two and sometimes three men to keep him in check. This in turn means that Maradona's colleagues have less pressure on them as he is constantly drawing away the opposition. The influence he has on any game is astounding, for he is not content with one or two moves. He is a gamemaker and has been clocked as running nine miles in a match. And one should not lose sight of the fact that all this is being done at top speed.

He is short for a footballer but he is simply explosive. There can be no other word for it. There is not an ounce of fat on his frame and he is well muscled. Because he is so short, his turning circle has a very small radius and he is at his most dangerous when running with the ball. His reflexes are wonderful and his anticipation is so good that it has prompted critics and opponents alike to say that he has eyes at the back of his head.

A slight crack in the defence is fatal when Maradona is around, for he seems to smell them out like a well-trained bloodhound. He moves goalward and if he finds that he is in danger he passes to a colleague. His sense of positioning is so uncanny that he is almost always in a zone from which he can score. Suffice it to say that even when Maradona does not have the ball, he is the most dangerous man on the field.



West German Uli Steike shows his grief after missing a penalty during the final moments of his side's game against France. He was one of the most sensational Germans on view.

IN Spain we were privileged to watch several great forwards in action, but of them all, the best in my estimation was the brilliant Pole, Zbigniew Boniek. Playing his normal game, he is awesome, under pressure he is a colossus. The greater the tension, the more dangerous his game.

He was a constant source of terror in his country's game against Belgium and literally blazed through the match, ending with a hat-trick. His amazing ball speed on the run enables him to cut through a defence line like a knife through butter,

leaving panic in his wake. He has good ball control and is a superb dribbler but most important of all at this level of soccer, he is not afraid of tackles. If his absence was a pity for us, the spectators, during his side's crucial semi-final encounter with Italy, it was nothing short of a tragedy for his team mates.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, who was voted the European Footballer of the Year in 1981, also impressed with his ability to penetrate the defence with his sudden darting moves. His verve and drive combine to make him unstoppable when the mood is on



Scirea of Italy (No. 6) clears  
the ball to foil West Germany's  
Littbarski (No. 7)



him. Until the semi-final he and Bonin were the joint top scorers, with four goals each, but he was dinged by injury throughout the tournament and did not have the opportunity to shine at his very best.

It is not only that a forward should be looking for scoring every time he gets a chance, any forward worth his name knows that success or failure is the ability to create a situation where he is in a position to score. This often means working up to a shot which before attempting to take a shot at goal. In this respect three players stand out prominently: Socrates and Falcão of Brazil and Roberto Rossi of Italy. All three men are the length of their bodies to trap the ball and move forward, a trait that makes them highly unpredictable. Rossi is a scholastic—he ever—use the same move twice in any particular match and so one cannot always tell what he is going to do.

Both Brazilians, Socrates and Falcão are equally capable of holding their own against two or even three defenders but more important than this is their innate ability to work from deep inside their own territory. Rossi is not as skilful in this respect as the Brazilians but he is a treat to watch on his long runs with the ball, which he usually makes along the flank.

Even with regard to ball control, he is not as talented as the Brazilians but he is just as attractive and dangerous. Against Brazil—an encounter that was as spectacular as it was important—he rose to the occasion and covered himself in glory with that hat-trick.

The Pole Lato, also deserves mention. He is an interesting player who works from midfield onto the wing position either to float centres or move towards the goalmouth. His finish is not as classic as the others I have spoken of, but he is a delightful player to watch.

The Englishman Paul Mariner, is another forward who is an asset to his side, finishing powerfully on every occasion. Not for him any half-hearted attempts. He believes in giving it his best and he does so every time. No demand is too great for him. If his team needs Mariner, he is always there and they can rely on him to give his utmost time and again without complaining about the burden.

Mariner is a rarity in the sense that he takes enormous risks up front. He is the sort of aggressive player who would much rather charge towards the goal than wait for it to come to him. Instead it is precisely this aggression that can spell the all-important difference between defeat and victory.

The Frenchman Alain Giresse, is a withdrawn forward of undoubted calibre and with his controlled speed and accurate passing a threat every



Rossi puts his head down to put in the first goal of the final for Italy and his sixth in succession in the tournament.

time he starts a run, regardless of whether or not he is in possession of the ball.

Litharshi of West Germany impressed me greatly as a genuine winger. His speed on the flanks is, to use a hackneyed expression, breath-taking and his accuracy has to be seen to be believed. He believes that it is his duty as much as it is anyone else's, to take possession of the ball, grabbing it from the opposition but his chief drawback is that, in a confined space, he gives the impression that he is cramped and cannot do very much.

Unpretentious Northern Ireland fielded two impressive players in captain Martin O'Neil and the youngster, Norman Whiteside. The former is one of those never say-die players who refuses to give up even when the opposition is converging on him. He never lets slip an opportunity to have a crack at goal. Whiteside could, if he is well utilised—blossom into a very effective attacking player. It was a good sign that his form got better as the tournament progressed and if I am not mistaken, we shall be hearing a lot more of him in the near future.

**A**MONG the midfielders, the Frenchman Michel Platini who came to Spain with quite a formidable reputation, did not find his rhythm to start with. However, he soon came into his own and enter-

tained the crowds no end. He controls the midfield in addition to which he dictates the trend of the attack. Against Northern Ireland, he was always at the heart of the action and thanks to his interception and scoring abilities, his side emerged triumphant to become one of the strongest contenders for the Cup.

England's Bryan Robson moves well and is a very powerful player who is very fast on his feet. He played consistently for his side and perhaps could have changed the outcome of the Group B matches if he had been given better support by his forwards.

One player who demonstrated tremendous control over the static half was the outstanding Brazilian, Zico. His body is unbelievably supple, allowing him to manoeuvre a shot from almost any angle. He is very agile and fast. His one drawback, however, is a tendency to show off and this sometimes leads to scoring opportunities being missed.

As a game maker, he is exceptional. He passes very accurately, reminding one of that great forebear, Pele. One gets the distinct impression that he can pass the ball almost anywhere, to anyone, without even having to look in the necessary direction.

But, without a doubt, the best midfield player on view in the World Cup was the Argentinian Osvaldo Aldiles, who has been playing, in



England for Tottenham Hotspur, the team that won the FA Cup last year and again this year. This player's acceleration literally leaves his opponents standing and the manner in which he controls proceedings in midfield is awesome. His greatest asset is that he is blessed with the ability to cling to the ball against all odds and he does so even in the most incredible of situations. He clings to that ball like a leech.

As far as natural ability is concerned, Ardie is in a class of his own, for his every move bears the stamp of genius. As if all this is not enough, he is also a very brave player and just refuses to give up, even in the most trying of situations. At any given time, he was the focal point of the attack and the pivot of the defence. One would have to go a long way back in soccer history to find his equal.

WHEN one branches the subject of the best defenders at Spain, the name that comes foremost to mind is that of the Argentinian captain, Daniel Passarella, who literally stood out head and shoulders above the rest. His game is greatly superior to that of the others. In fact he is far ahead of his time. It is an experience

in itself to watch him in action, so accomplished is he in terms of fitness, stamina, anticipation and control.

Not content merely with mastering his team's defence, he also moved up frequently into the attack, literally playing the role of innspring. Whenever his team attacked, Passarella was at hand, ready to deliver the coup de grace and finish the move or to pass to a colleague lying unmarked. His heading was a treat to watch and it was so very obvious that his team-mates strove to direct their corner kicks towards him. In the match against Brazil, though, he bore too heavy a burden and though at no stage in the game did he give up or waver in determination, it was apparent that he was being asked to do too much.

The coloured Frenchman, Marios Tresor, also impressed me with his positional play and the way he commanded the defence. He is getting on in age; he is about 32 years old but he is big and strong. He always gave his best and was ruthless in his tackles, for he was well aware of how much depended on him. If he failed, the chances were that the goalkeeper would be left stranded and this burden must have had some sort of

psychological effect on him. He is the sort of defender who does not move upfield, but his confidence and power are a constant source of inspiration to his colleagues.

Gerard Janvion, the other Frenchman, is another defender of note. He is a more flexible player, who is always on the prowl, ready to link up an attack and quite prepared to move upfield to initiate a move for his own side. He did both jobs with ease and distinction throughout the tournament and his footwork, which so dazzled the spectators, must surely have been a constant and nagging source of irritation to his opponents.

Terry Butcher, the Englishman, came to Spain with quite a reputation and certainly proved that he is not short on confidence. He is a courageous tackler and he covers his zone excellently.

Ulrike Stielke of West Germany, started off well and certainly in the opening stages of the tournament was the best sweeper on view. He seemed to have the knack of being in the right position at the right time, a tribute to his fitness as well as his anticipation. He never caved in under pressure and he certainly has a few good years ahead of him while wearing West Germany's colours. Paul Breitner also impressed with the manner in which he snuffed out attacks. He is even the tough tackler and it is virtually impossible for any player to get the better of him in a one-on-one situation.

Italy's left back, Adriano Caltabiano, played consistently and also performed well when he moved up to help the forwards. Despite the fact that he is basically a defender, he definitely relished the task of moving up and his presence seemed to have an effect on the rival defenders.

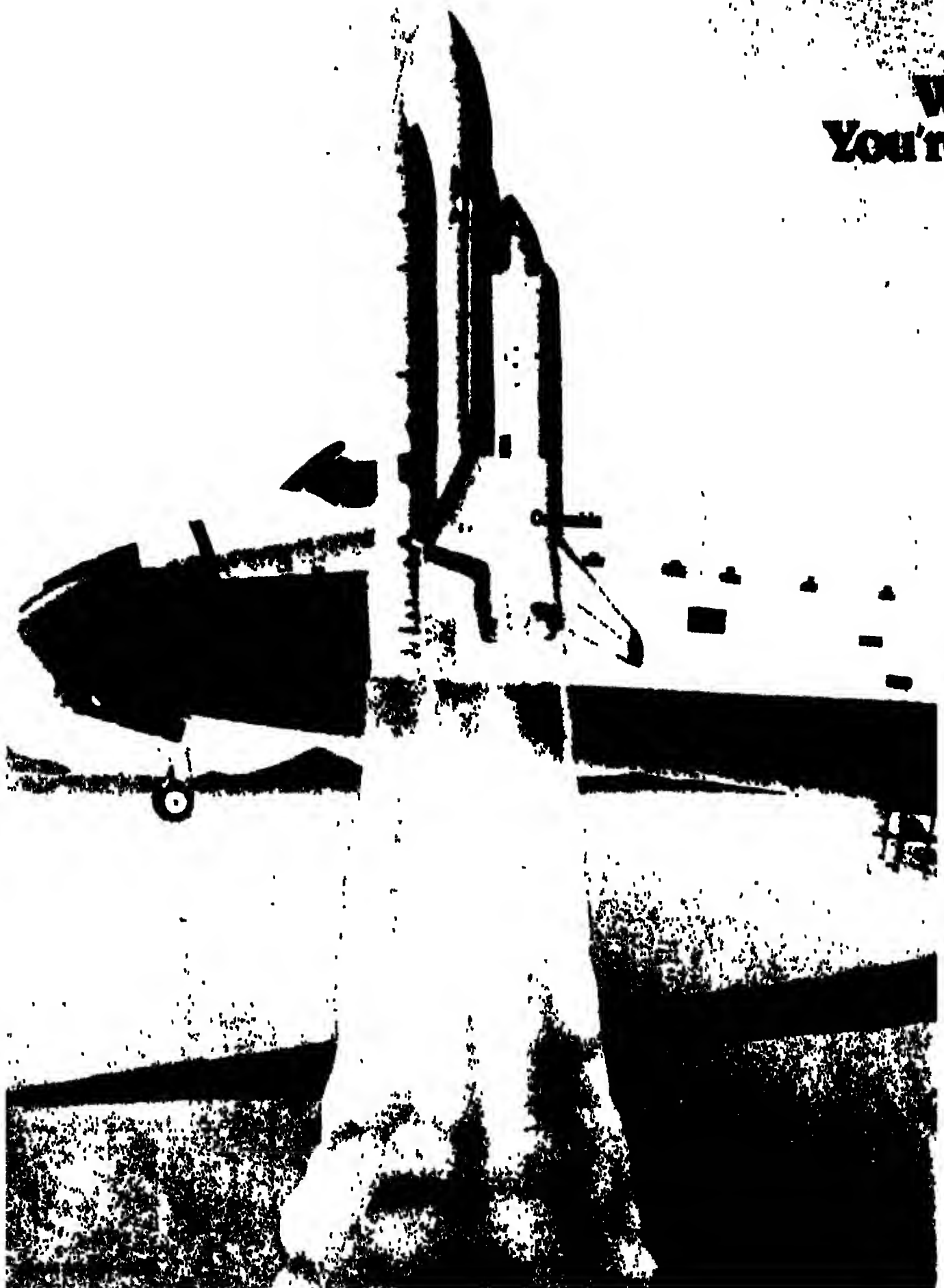
(4), the goalkeepers, the greatest one on view was without a doubt the great Italian veteran, Dino Zoff, who must surely be something of a legend in his own country. He is second to none that he never gives the impression of being flustered no matter what the game is like. Against favourites Brazil, his performance was simply out of this world. You can never be sure of a goal against him until the ball has actually entered the net and it is not often that this happens.

Dassayev, the Soviet custodian, could perhaps even rise to emulate his illustrious predecessor, Yashin. The Soviet defence line was so well organised that he seldom faced any real threat, but when the need arose, he was always at hand to save the situation. Two other goalkeepers who had a good tournament were the Pole, Jozsef Mlynarczyk and England's Peter Shilton. The latter's greatest asset seems to be his uncanny sixth sense, which enables him to bring off amazing saves just when all seems lost.

Soviet goalkeeper Dassayev risks from Brazil's Zico. The former could become another Lev Yashin given some experience.



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# Where Argentina went wrong

**T**HE odds against a country winning the World Cup twice in succession are so high that none but the inveterate gambler would have entertained hopes of an Argentine victory in Spain. But for the 1978 champions to sink away in disgrace, failing to reach the semi-final stage of the 14 nation competition, was a disaster even their worst enemies could not have imagined.

Manager Cesar Menotti was so stunned he couldn't speak and thousands of Argentines watching the television in disbelief in Buenos Aires were so dismayed that they couldn't even be angry. And to rub salt into this grievous wound, their star player, billed the best in the world, was sent off in their last appearance in the World Cup.

Actually, the Argentines were defeated before they arrived in Barcelona for the inaugural match of the championship which, by convention, has to feature the holders. And there were several telling reasons.

*The first was the one brought home by the first test to the world.*

While it was hard to visualise Argentina's performance if the Falklands war had not started, it was clear that the players were upset by the events at home. And the Falklands fell just before they fell to a red-shirted, almost arrogant Belgium at the Nou Camp Stadium. Although Menotti did not encourage his players to give interviews, it was clear that there was no peace of mind. It was an embarrassing moment in the history of the country and that feeling naturally percolated down to the footballers. And they were not aided in overcoming it, because an estimated 10,000 Argentines, expected to cheer their team to victory in Spain, cancelled their trip to Barcelona at the last minute. Even though the Spaniards, who have more than a language connection with the South Americans, began by cheering them lustily, they did not sustain that effort once they realised they were not backing the right horse.

But perhaps the most telling

reason for their debacle—it was nothing short of that—was the fact that the 1978 squad had aged to perfection. They were no longer as sharp and incisive as they were at home four years ago and the years certainly told on their stamina, aided, naturally, by the heat and humidity of the Spanish summer.

The most outstanding goalkeeper of '78, Fillol, was past 30 and captain Daniel Passarella was not getting younger either. There were seven others whom Menotti kept in the regular squad. But none of them could meet up with the demands of a punishing World Cup campaign and fitness soon became a cause for concern.

Performance-wise, the Argentines were no hot shots in the Eighties. Apart from a World Youth Cup victory in 1980, Menotti had little to offer as evidence of a great side. In the summer of 1980, his team played three matches in Europe. It lost to England, beat Austria and Ireland,





*Cesar Menotti—empty optimism*

but did not show up the team in good light. Last year, his preparations included matches in Italy and Spain, but against club sides. This was intended to expose the players afresh to European, especially Spanish conditions. But these were of no help. He did not get the services of the players for any great stretch of time—except from early this year—and he found very little fresh talent that could inject new blood into an ageing stream.

History, too, was against Argentina. Italy, who were even pretenders to the world crown, had not lost once against them in the last seven encounters, which included the 1978 pool match in which Argentina came out losers. Brazil had a more impressive record. In nine matches before this World Cup, Argentina had managed to draw only three and failed to win even once.

It was, therefore, with little more than empty optimism that Cesar Luis Menotti claimed on arrival in Spain: "We are here to take back the World Cup." Egged on by this belief—and supported by nothing more than sheer bravado—the Argentine took the field against the famed red devils (a name that has stuck with the Belgians ever since they started their not so distinguished World Cup campaign in 1930). And even after Vercauteren and Vandenberg had plundered and pillaged their penalty area, they could not recapture even a little of their 1978 form. It was only after they moved to Alicante's Jose Rico Perez Stadium that they recovered their composure. On June 18, five days after the opening disaster, they showed glimpses of their true potential when they beat Hungary 4-1. But the key factor here was the Hungarians' self-confidence, born out of the record-breaking 10-1 victory over El Salvador and the basic error of allowing Diego Maradona room to manoeuvre. But, to that, later

By the third match, they were again in trouble. And, had it not been for the controversial Passarella penalty, which gave them the first of their two goals, their game against El Salvador could have ended in another disaster. This victory, however, took them to the fact that by not living up to the seeding they received, they found themselves in the same group as Brazil and Italy. The last named had had an indifferent showing in the first stage, so the Argentines were already working out the strategies to be worked out in the encounter with Brazil. But they met Italy first and were promptly pulverised. Italy played superbly, finding their touch late, but revelling in it—and recording their first victory in the tournament to boot.

The Italian strategy was almost flawless. They started out by putting Gentile on Maradona, with specific instructions to stop him anyhow. And the deep defender did that very well, though he did stretch things a bit when he elbowed the diminutive 'genius' in the face. But he was effective and that is what professionalism is all about. Gentile was not the only one, though. The Italians seemed to adopt the policy of niggling their opponents until they forgot football and indulged in a war of attrition.

Once this was established, and once the Argentines resolved to pay them back in their own coin, the Italians began to play football again. This was too much for the South Americans who found themselves two goals down. A late freekick conversion by Passarella was obviously not enough.

The Argentines then concentrated on the Brazil match, hoping that the latter would then lose to Italy by a bigger margin to allow them to enter the semi-finals. But, of course, this never happened. Instead the Brazilians played their best game of the tournament. After teasing and tormenting the Argentines in the first half, the Brazilians beat them 3-1. One Maradona was clearly not enough. And Argentina had the dubious distinction of having in their ranks two players who were summarily dismissed from the ground—Americo Gallego and Diego Maradona himself, the first in the game with Italy and the second in what turned out to be their last match.

Apart from their political mishap and the ageing of players, the Argentines under Menotti obviously did not prepare well enough for the World Cup. It was clear that they did not study the games of their opponents. It was also clear that Tarantini, manning the left side of the deep defence, was not restrained from moving upfield by Menotti. He proved a constant source of danger to his own side when the chips were down, though he did play a useful role in moulding attacks from be-



*Mario Kempes—in poor form*

hind. The woeful lack of form of Mario Kempes was another factor that weighed heavily on Maradona, who was left largely to fend for himself. Only Osvaldo Ardiles stood out, trying to tie the loose ends of the defence together and feed his forwards at the same time. Passarella did have his moments of glory, but he failed to galvanise his team into an instrument of attack.

Maradona's was a tale of woe. He was heralded into the World Cup as the biggest star. But the managers of other teams worked out their own plans for him. Throughout their campaign, Maradona found himself being shadowed by one, sometimes two players. And he was never given much room to manoeuvre. To add to his misery, he found that he could not reach the dizzy heights he had so quickly climbed in four years. But in fairness, one has to admit that if ever a count was taken, it would be clear that he was the most fouled against player in the tournament—though one has to add in the same breath that this is the lot of every player who distinguishes himself. And players like Pele had to suffer much more. Pele was literally kicked out of the campaign in England in 1966, when Brazil made an early exit. So, that was the sorry tale of Argentina. Of course, Menotti will be sacked. So will some of the players. But Menotti would himself have quit—with a firm offer from FC Valencia in his pocket. And the players themselves will find several places to go to—Europe or the North American soccer league hases.

But how far will sacking go to rearing another world-beating team? Argentina will have to look to the set of youngsters (Maradona included) who won the World Youth competition in 1980 and, of course, another manager. But where will they get that spark of inspiration that led to the Buenos Aires triumph? It was nowhere in evidence in Spain.



*Pietro Vierchowod  
and Bernd Foster  
of West Germany*



**Just one point**

# The Mohammedan Sporting muddle

SUBHASH SARCAR

**W**HEN the need of the hour is to maintain a side comprising as many regular players as possible, Mohammedan Sporting found themselves with no other option but to suspend two of their stalwarts. The suspension of Pem Dorji and the Iranian Jamshed Nasirri has weakened both the defence as well as the forward line but the hard line taken by the club in question, is for many, a welcome departure from the time when leading players were considered indispensable.

Had this been solely a decision on the part of the Indian Football Association league sub-committee, it would have been another matter altogether, but the defending league champions have certainly established a new trend in disciplinary action.

Both players had recently taken the law into their own hands during their side's encounter against formidable Railway I C and now have had to face the consequences by sitting out on the sidelines for the rest of the league. Mohammedan Sporting's action, though it has weakened the side, is indeed a unique example which other sides would do well to follow.

In the past, it has been the general practice among the leading clubs that offenders have been allowed to get away scot free, no matter what their misdemeanours were. The reason was fairly obvious: clubs did not dare take the chance of incurring the wrath of their star players, for fear that the latter would lose all interest in their subsequent matches. In the highly competitive atmosphere of soccer on the Calcutta maidan, it was perhaps a natural corollary, but one that, all the same, had rather frightening results.

And when clubs have taken action against erring players—such instances have been all too rare—it has made little or no difference at all in the ultimate analysis. It is a well established fact that leading players resort to gamesmanship and other tactics and it often happens that a referee or linesman overlooks—intentionally or even otherwise—infractions on the part of certain players. But very often the players have made it difficult for themselves by virtue of their questionable be-

haviour on the soccer field. Such tactics have often led to violence off the field, with disastrous consequences. The atmosphere on the maidan is electrically charged as it is, and does not need any other outside elements to aggravate the situation.

A few days before the incident featuring Dorji and Nasirri, there was another similar situation during the Mohun Bagan Calcutta Gymkhana match. Seasoned campaigner Surjit Sengupta entered a wordy duel with the referee, Ajoy Lahiri, who earned the wrath of the spectators for having overlooked some of the infractions during the game in question. Things were bad enough, but they did not end there. After the match, Sengupta charged towards Lahiri with his jersey in his hand and it was clear from his attitude that he was not exactly making friendly overtures. The referee managed to get out of what would definitely have been a rather tricky situation, thanks to the timely intervention of his colleagues and certain club officials.

*An ugly scene after RFC scored against Mohammedan S C*



The match in question was a fairly rough one, which finished blank, however. As if that was not bad enough for the Mohun Bagan supporters, a penalty was sacrificed to add insult to injury and so it was expected that missiles would be the order of the day. Sure enough, this is precisely what happened. This brings one to a very important point. The so-called junior clubs are gradually beginning to prove that they are far from being the virtual underdogs that everyone considers them to be. They are gradually coming into their own and as they find their confidence and then form, it is only but natural that they should provide stiff opposition for the three big clubs.

In the recent past, trouble has almost always brewed after a close match between a big club and a junior outfit. A scoreless encounter causes even more worry. The question is why should this be the case? What is even more worrying is the fact that supporters of the big clubs come to every game expecting their team to go home triumphant. Such a notion in itself is harmless, but when the end product of a close encounter is needless violence, there is something diastically wrong somewhere.

When Railway F C played Mohammedan Sporting and scored a delightful goal through Sanjib Dey, all hell was let loose. Indeed, this was the worst incident since that black day at the Eden Gardens two years ago, when sixteen spectators lost their lives. These are all symptoms of a very dangerous malady.

It is clear to all and sundry, including the casual observer, that Mohammedan Sporting have been going through a very bad patch as far as

championship form is concerned. It was a foregone conclusion some time ago that the reigning league champions were out of the running for the top honours this year, thanks in no small measure to inconsistency and some off-colour performances by leading players who were expected to carry the team through.

There was trouble brewing within the club and the officials were not slow to realise this. But the point is that if they did take any steps to defuse the situation, which was worsening all the time, it was not apparent to the observer.

Could the incident involving Dorji and Nasirri have been averted if Mohammedan Sporting president Erfan Talukder had been present? The question has often been raised in the days following the incident and the suspension, but it is difficult to answer, one way or another, for such discussion is mere hypothesis. It is well known that the president is a strict disciplinarian who brooks no misbehaviour on the part of leading players or otherwise. Another question that has been frequently heard is whether it was his presence that led to the suspension of the two players. Again, difficult to comment on.

When the Mohammedan Sporting football secretary, Ghulam Mustafa, was asked to comment on whether any political pressure had been

brought to bear on the club, he responded. "Why should anyone pressure us? Nothing of the sort happened. As a matter of fact, we were thinking of taking action ourselves the day after the incident, so the question of pressure does not arise. The only problem was that since the president and general secretary of the club were both out of town, so there was little we could do. We could not take a decision. Indeed, it came as something of a shock to us all to learn that the IFA president had decided to suspend the club, only hours after the incident took place. He should have waited to read the referee's report before making such a statement. That is why we were waiting to see what further action the IFA president was going to take."

But what about the hasty action on the part of the players in question? Replied Mr. Mustafa: "The players had no business to manhandle the linesman. They should have realised that and gone about things in the proper fashion. When we realised that Jamshed was getting upset we went to cool him down, but as soon as the linesman came into the centre of the field, Pem Dorji lost his head. This was indeed regrettable. Of course, it happened in the heat of the moment, but it does not mean that they will be allowed to get away with something like this. We had already

decided to ban them after the incident but we had to wait for the final say."

"In a special meeting it was unanimously decided by the president and all others present that the players would be suspended for the rest of the league matches. However, both players will be expected to turn out for practice with the rest of the team. Don't forget that we have the IFA Shield ahead of us. Yes, I agree that their suspension has weakened the team to a certain extent, but this could not be helped. Ultimately, it means that there will be a greater burden on skipper Moidul Islam and the others, who will have to exert themselves more to cover up for the absence of their colleagues," he said.

It certainly needed drastic action to enforce discipline or else things were in danger of getting out of hand. Why was there that unseemly incident when RFC had scored that goal? The media praised it as a gem of a goal. Said referee Pradip Nag after the match: "There are no two opinions about that goal."

This was not the first time in the history of the Calcutta maidan that Jamshed had given vent to his irritation on the field. Even when he wore East Bengal colours, he was well known for his outbursts. In this incident, it was because of his kicking and jostling of Dipak Bhattacharjee that the galleries erupted. That was



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the first sign of impending trouble. The police had to go into action to clear the stands and club officials had to intervene so that play could be resumed. However, some officials were mistakenly beaten up in the process. "We called an emergency meeting the next day with the West Bengal Deputy Speaker Kalumuddin Shams as our special invitee so as to apprise him of the police action. We wanted him to arrange that the Chief Minister and the Sports Minister should arrange a series of meetings for us," stated the football secretary. It was also at this stage that the club threatened to withdraw from the league.

The club officials then had a meeting with the Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu and the Sports Minister, Mr Subhas Chakraborty and the police. It was decided at this meeting that peace would be maintained at all costs and that the players would be specially asked to behave themselves in view of the situation. The followup led to the unanimous decision on the part of the IFA league subcommittee and the club to suspend the two players. But is this any guarantee that there will be no repetition of violence when a big team plays a lesser side?

In the words of Mr Mustafi, "whether we win or lose or draw, we will behave in a manner expected of true sportsmen. Further, we have decided that any player who misbehaves will be debaired. I think this attitude is going to instil a sense of fear and respect among the players. You can see from this that our president is a strict disciplinarian," he asserted.

To go back a little in the club's history, it was felt last year after their league triumph that they would be back on top again this year. This has not proved to be the case, at least in their league engagements. In the long run last year's triumph would seem to have been a very expensive proposition for the club. In the words of one club official, who voiced his sentiments before the league got under way, "When a side spends so much on a team, one expects that there should be some measure of success, but this has not been the case so far. We gave our players whatever they wanted, all the facilities they asked for, but the returns have not been satisfactory. If we cannot get the best out of our best players, it is better to concentrate only on forming a team that is merely capable of beating Aryan or Rajasthan."

The first signs of the drastic slump had come during the Trichur Nationals. Both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan had sent feelers to the Mohammedan SC players about joining their respective folds. The reigning champions sat back to witness another exodus and the club was literally back to square one. Their star players went to the highest bidders and the club was out in the



RFC's Kishore Mukherjee hurls a stone back into the gallery during their drawn tie with Mohun Bagan

wilderness once more, dwarfed by the talent in the other two rival sides. It seemed that they were not taking an active interest in retaining the men who had done duty for them and won back the league honours after so many years of futile attempts. Perhaps the financial drain was eventually taking its toll on the coffers of the champion club. They were by now reduced to scouting around the maidan to induce players of the smaller clubs to join their ranks. True, the juniors in question were undoubtedly talented and promising but it was somewhat of a comedown for the Mohammedan Sporting officials. It was no secret that the top brass of the club were not in the city. Had they been present, perhaps they could have captured some of the rising stars who had promised earlier to play for the black-and-whites.

When asked to comment on this, the football secretary said "We had to sacrifice the idea of a really good side because our annual general meeting was delayed as the president and secretary were both away from Calcutta at the time. We only began our drive to recruit players a mere ten or fifteen days before the transfer season ended, by which time the major negotiations were already over."

"Since we were left with limited options, we had to approach the three Iranians in order to assure ourselves of a team of some standing at least. However, we were actually having second thoughts about them, but we did not have much room to manoeuvre. We took them in on the assumption that they were still in form and could produce the kind of soccer we required of them. Honestly speaking, though, we have not been satisfied with the way in which they have performed so far."

It is food for thought that the introduc-

tion of the Iranians caused some controversy within the club circles and at least one important person resigned his post while some others decided to take a different approach and stay aloof from club affairs.

With affairs at such a pitch, NIS coach Saeed Nayeemuddin was given the reins of the team and expected to produce the goods. It is a well known fact that he is a strict disciplinarian who means business, and one cannot help but wonder if this is one of the reasons for the team's inconsistent performance thus far.

Said Mr Mustafi when asked to comment on this, "Nayeem is a strict coach and we are very happy with him. The boys are practising every day but it is something of a mystery as to why they are not performing up to expectations during the matches. As for the rumour that there is a rift between the Iranians and the rest of my players, there is absolutely no truth in it. The players themselves have no complaints whatever about the Iranians staying separately, because this has been the arrangement from the very beginning." But whether anyone admits it or not, there is a rift somewhere within the club functioning, or else it would not be so apparent.

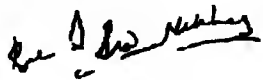
With regard to the members they are not too happy about the way the team has been performing. To some extent, they have been placated by the return of Latifuddin, which, it is presumed, they view as some compensation for the Jamshed incident.

It was sad indeed that some of the members were injured by the police action that day on the maidan. But this might not have happened at all had the action not taken place in the ramparts. At the time of going to press, it was in the hands of the league subcommittee to take a decision on the fate of the match.

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**CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

# Bagan suffers another setback

Mohammedan Sporting did not play any matches in the week under review. However, East Bengal registered two polished victories, while Mohun Bagan dropped another point and fell further behind in the race for top honours. SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL and DEREK O'BRIEN report on the matches

**MOHUN BAGAN** Lassitude reigned courtesy the home team. The spectators did not need flowers of the Lotus Eaters to put them into a spell of drowsiness on two sultry afternoons. The pathetic football dishied out by the Federation Cup champions was sufficient oplate.

The maroon-and-green-shirted men played two matches in the week under review, both against teams whose ideas of 'success' rest on the lower rungs of the Calcutta First Division ladder. Shyam Thapa's men

in their first outing after the defeat at the hands of East Bengal took on the none too impressive Bata Sports Club and were lucky to prevail by a solitary goal. However, a dejected Mohun Bagan side dropped their fourth point of the League when Wari held them to a dreary goalless draw later in the week.

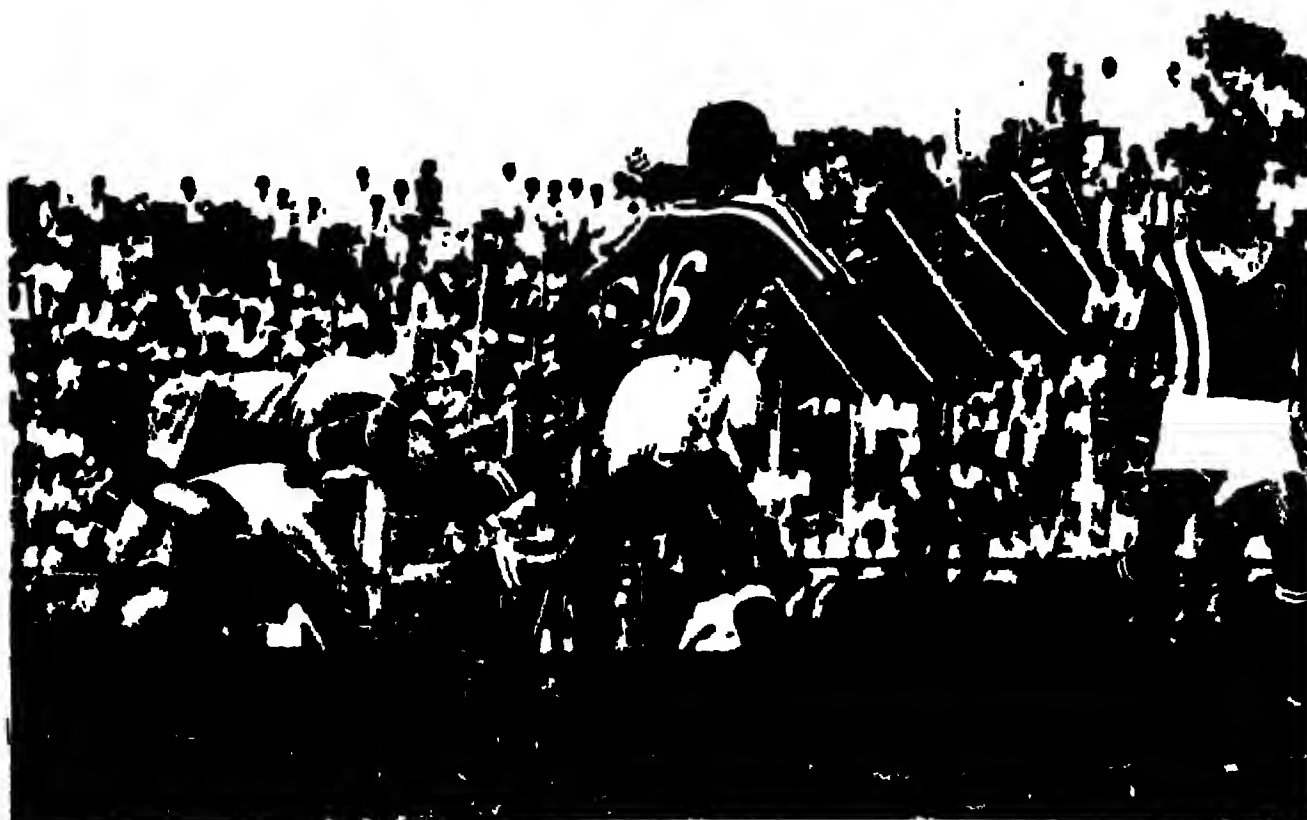
Mohun Bagan have now played fourteen matches and it will not take the wisest of critics to predict that last year's Calcutta League runners up are out of the race. In the last four

matches they have scored just two goals—two solitary goal wins over Bata S C and Sporting Union coupled with their goalless draw against Wari and the loss against East Bengal.

Against Bata S C Mohun Bagan did without the services of three of their stalwarts. Skipper Shyam Thapa was running a temperature, Shrivari Banerjee was resting and Subroto Bhattacharya paying the penalty for receiving yellow cards in the two previous matches. The absence of these players, undoubtedly, affected the team's performance, but what is worse is that the Mohun Bagan balloon of morale was punctured after going down to East Bengal.

It was not that the Bata boys put in a sterling performance to minimise the Bagan win, but instead Mohun Bagan played football which would not even do a lesser known side proud.

In the 23rd minute an Amit Bagchi attempt hit the Bata crosspiece and four minutes later Amitava Mukherjee's header was well collected by the Bata goalkeeper Rathin Sinha Roy. The latter also gave a good account of himself in the second half. Four minutes into the second half Rathin dived to deflect Krishanu Dey's grounder and a few moments later he nipped a Surajit Sengupta try in the bud. The glamour team got a few stray chances as the game took its dreary course. In the 63rd minute Gautam Satkar pushed the ball to Surajit who in turn found Amit. The



Bata goalkeeper manages to wrest the ball from Krishanu Dey



Tapan Das sends the ball past a Barsha defender for a goal.

lanky Bagchi found the left hand corner of the net after the ball had deflected off a Bata defender "Rathin Sinha Roy had the ball covered," said Bata coach Tamal Sen after the match, "and it was unfortunate that the ball deflected—it was a fluke goal."

**M**OHUN BAGAN could indeed have done with another such fluke in their second outing of the week against Wari Athletic Club, when they were held to a goalless draw. Shyam Thapa's men should consider themselves lucky that they managed to salvage a point as the young Wari team certainly enjoyed the major share of the exchanges.

Dilip Paul once again took Shivaji Banerjee's place, Surajit Sengupta did not want to aggravate his weak knee, Denis Williamson had pulled a hamstring, and to crown it all—in the words of coach Shankar Banerjee—"Subrata Bhattacharya was down to play today. He is coming out regularly and punctually for practice, but what is the use of practising if one does not bother to come out for matches? I do not know why Subrata did not turn up. He should have at least informed us." Anyway, that was that.

Mohun Bagan, with the exception of Shyam Thapa and Gautam Sarkar, who played at half pace, played with a very inexperienced team. "It is all right if we have one or two young players and weak links, as the more experienced players can cover up. But today the stalwarts were the exception rather than the rule," a forlorn Shankar Banerjee said after the match.

It would be a futile exercise to point out the highlights of the Mohun Bagan effort in this match. With the exception of Shyam Thapa in the forward line, there was very little for the 30,000 spectators who

braved an unbearably hot Calcutta afternoon to shout for. The tall Amit Bagchi reminds one so much of Elvis Presley with his neat hair style and snazzy walk, but forgets—with all respects to the King of Rock—that he is here to play football and not parade in a fashion show. Amitava Mukherjee hung on to the ball for too long and Krishanu Dey could not find his rhythm. It was a sad state of affairs.

For the most part of the first half it was a story of poor shooting. In the opening minutes Samir Sengupta the Wari left-extreme had a good chance, as did Amit Bagchi and Amitava Mukherjee of Mohun Bagan. All their attempts were wide off the mark and one cannot help but repeat that the bane of Indian football is poor striking power.

Amitava Mukherjee who was used as a winger in the first half played in his usual role as a striker in the second, but without any improvement. Midway into the second half Sanatan Choudhury, the Wari link-man, had only the goalkeeper to beat but his feeble kick was saved by Dilip Paul diving to his left. "I admit it was the easiest chance of the match," Sanatan said, "but what happened was that I received the ball on my thigh and failed to control it."

The only noteworthy Mohun Bagan move was initiated down the left flank in the 17th minute of the second half. A Krishanu Dey pass found Amit Bagchi, who centred to Amitava. The latter took a shot but the Wari goalkeeper brought off an excellent save and the writing was on the wall for Mohun Bagan.

Referee Milan Dutta made a glaring mistake on this day, although the linesman was also to blame. Sujas Bera replaced Krishanu Dey 10 minutes before full time without the referee noting down the change and

it was only after a few minutes that the error was rectified.

While the young Wari players rejoiced over their achievement, frustrated Mohun Bagan supporters could not accept the fact that their favourite team had secured only 24 points in 14 matches and missiles accompanied the players on their way back to the tent.

With stones flying around this reporter somehow managed to leave a word with the Wari coach Amal Chakraborty. "I have a very young team under me and the draw will surely boost their morale. However, it is difficult to stay clear of the politics of the Calcutta League. Most matches among the smaller clubs are 'fixed' and the whole thing is a farce," said the Wari coach. "Regards today's game, well, we played the 4-3-3 combination, a system I've been following for all our matches. Moreover, Sanatan Choudhury was used to bottle up Shyam Thapa, as we know he was the danger man," Chakraborty added.

The Mohun Bagan tent after the match was a gloomy sight. Shyam Thapa brooded after the match saying, "Well, all has been lost and do not be surprised if you see us playing our whole second string in the matches to follow. Our confidence is shattered and we are going to have even more problems against George Telegraphs and Aryans."

To avoid their furious supporters many a Mohun Bagan player had to leave the tent through the 'back door' and one would not be surprised if they have to do this on a few more occasions this season.

**EAST BENGAL:** The confidence the home team derived from the victory over Mohun Bagan in their previous league engagement swept away all obstacles from their way in achiev-



ing yet another facile win when they met Barisha Sporting. East Bengal went on the offensive right from the beginning and maintained the momentum throughout the match leaving little scope for their rivals to make inroads into their territory, despite the absence of their key halfline and skipper Amaliaj

However, Deepak Banerjee, who was fielded in Amal's place could not do justice to his selection and had to be withdrawn before long Swapan Routh was brought in to help man the half line

After making a few abortive moves, East Bengal made the breakthrough in the 12th minute of play. The goal was a result of an excellent combination between East Bengal's right full-back Bidyut Kundu and the scorer Tapan Das. The former darted into Barisha territory after dribbling past a few defenders and then essayed a centre which Tapan made no mistake to nod home. Though there was not much power behind the header the Barisha custodian made little effort to block it.

It was Bidyut Kundu again who proved instrumental in bringing about the second goal which was scored by Arup Das. It was once again the tumbling on the part of the Barisha custodian which paved the way for the goal. When Bidyut floated the ball into the goalmouth, Kartick nicely headed the ball towards the goal. The goalie tried to grab the ball, but it slipped out off his hands, and Arup Das was there to cash in on the opportunity.

Among the forwards Kartick Sett was the most eye-catching as usual. Putting up a good display of his skills, anticipation and positioning judgement, Kartick proved a constant source of danger for the Barisha defenders. And it was he who scored the third goal off a clever pass from Balaj Mukherjee.

East Bengal maintained their winning spree when they took on Salkia Friends in their next league engagement. But this time the victory was not as easy as the previous one. The Salkia boys, known for their resilience, sought to offer their superior rivals a stiff challenge and succeeded to some extent in the first half.

Not only that, the East Bengal defence also showed some signs of weakness in the first half with little understanding between the halfline and the defenders. As a result, the Barisha forwards made quick inroads into their territory on a number of occasions, creating quite a few dangerous moments which the East Bengal defenders had a hard time to neutralise.

The main reason for these defence lapses was undoubtedly the absence of Chinmoy Chatterjee who was nursing a thigh injury. Moreover, Balaj Mukherjee was often trying to

move upfield to help the halfline as well as the forwards to create openings in front of the Barisha goalmouth. This added to the problems of the other defenders who were often seen caught on the wrong foot, somewhat surprised by the well-concerted moves by the Salkia attackers. In fact, in the first half they showed better ball control than that of their opponents and played really enthusiastic football.

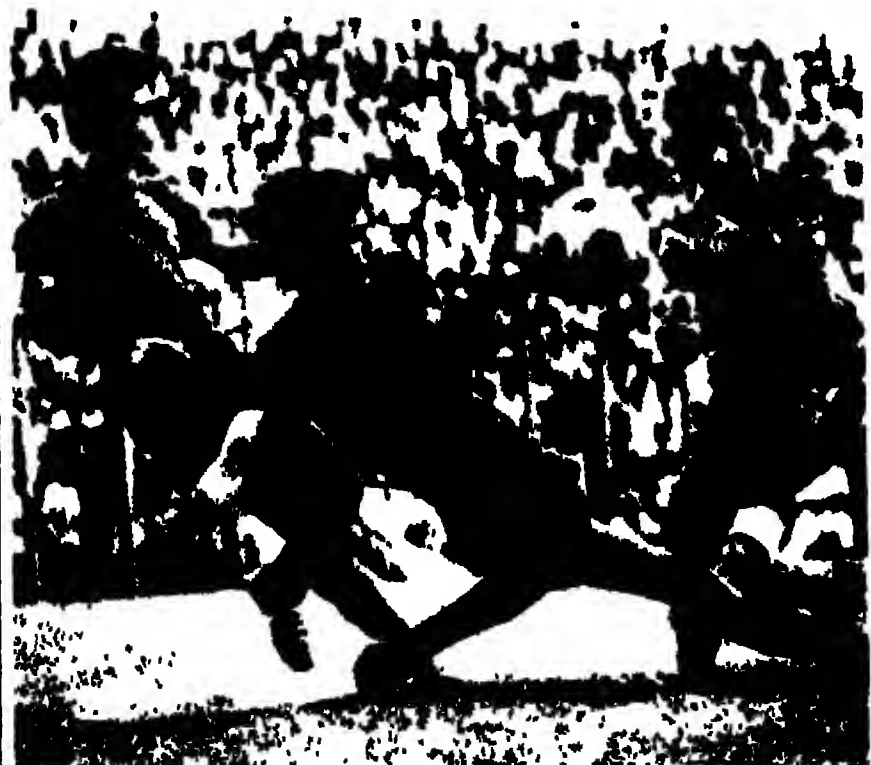
However, the other defender Pulak Biswas rose to the occasion commendably, taking it upon himself to make up for the absence of his experienced partner.

Another reason for their disorganised showing in the first half was that they were not very serious in their attitude towards the match, perhaps the result of their success in overcoming the stiffest hurdle in the running for the league title. Said the football secretary of the club Prasanta Ghosh, after the match, "The players are still in a relaxed mood after the hard-earned victory over our arch-rival Mohur Bagan. That day we fought gallantly and clinched the issue for the current league

got the goal scored by Mihir with a spectacular shot." Thereafter, East Bengal never allowed the initiative to slip out of their hands.

East Bengal started the second half with a few changes in the team, with Shekhar Chaki aborty coming in place of Swapan Routh, and got the second goal in the 34th minute of the second half through Kartick Sett.

Now, the peculiarity about Salkia's performance was that, despite their aggressive play in the first half, they mysteriously recoiled into their shell in the second session, making little effort to penetrate their rival danger zone. When asked about it, the Salkia coach, Jahaj Das, explained, "The stamina of my boys is limited, and they are much junior to their big club opponents. But in a bid to give their rivals an early surprise, they went out of their way and toiled extraordinarily hard in the first 30 minutes of the game. Naturally, they ran out of steam soon afterwards. Moreover, they tended to keep the ball to themselves for too long, which put additional pressure on their energy, and allowed the East Bengal



Salkia defender intercepts Mihir Bosa

Naturally, this has induced a lethargic attitude in them which, however, they will not take long to overcome. But, strangely, at the same time there is a streak of anxiety in their minds, lest anything undesirable happens and the club suffers a setback at the concluding stages of the championship. That was why, as you must have noticed, they suddenly went all out to get the breakthrough towards the end of the first half and

players to take possession on the other. You must have noticed, Shakti Mitra was always trying to penetrate into rival territory all by himself, without releasing the ball in time for his colleagues to carry it deep into the East Bengal defence zone."

Pics NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

## For bachelor s only

**S**OCCKER is a masculine game, no doubt, a game of brute force—legs, legs, legs, running, jumping, kicking, solid human mountains of muscle marauding up and down the field. And the fans? Perhaps the craziest followers of any sport, who stoim the stands and the streets—whooping, hollering, parading, fighting like a devastating whirlwind. The women's libbers may put forward a lot of arguments and even persuade the entire female population of the world to invade all the football grounds on earth, but the fact will remain that it's an all-male affair—an expression of masculine robustness—that brooks no element that is feminine.

Let us now move to the East Bengal ground where, a few days ago, the home team played a league match against an inferior rival team Salkia Friends. There were still ten minutes to go before the start of the match. The fans of the big club, in a jubilant mood after the victory in the battle royal against Mohun Bagan only a few days previously were hunting for comfortable seats, exchanging greetings with the other groundbirds, those old familiar faces of the members' enclosures. Suddenly something happened. A ripple of excitement passed through the crowd, with everybody looking and pointing at the stand entrance and whispering to one another.

Only a couple, ostensibly newly wed, coming up the stairs in search of two good seats for themselves and also some for their friends who were following close behind. The higher they went up, the louder became the laughter, some people even went to the extent of pointing at them and kept passing various remarks some of which were really ear-burning. And it was only too apparent that the target was

## Maidan musings



nobody else but the 'bride' clad in a red saree with sindur on her bright forehead.

The game started and the farce stopped for a while, but it was to resume with a vengeance after the final whistle was blown. None of the young connoisseurs of football, while filing past the embarrassed couple on their way out of the ground, forgot to hurl a comment at them. "Oh Dada, when did it all happen?" Somebody inquired, while another said, "How could you forget to invite us to your marriage party, Brother?" But as the comments became increasingly personal, one could not help but feel sorry for the young couple who will surely never watch another soccer match on the Maidan.

### The mock wars

**O**NE peculiar and unhealthy aspect of the Calcutta league is that it is always expected to be a one-sided affair with the unfancied teams tamely giving themselves up to their so-called superior rivals in each and every engagement of the tournament. In fact, it's no longer merely an expectation; it is becoming a fact. Stiff

resistance from one such junior team inevitably causes annoyance in the stands, not to speak of an aggressive game which is bound to be an obvious irritant.

In other words, this is becoming more and more like a wish-fulfilling make believe movie of the Bombay kind. The heroes face difficulties of various kinds, hurdles will be strewn in their paths, but none of them will be real ones. They must be eliminated at the appropriate moments before the glamour-boys run out of steam. Thereafter, it's an easy path all the way to the ultimate goal—a happy ending.

But things do not follow that same formula all the time. Once in a while some people turn back in rebellion to prick the balloon of superiority of their more celebrated rivals.

But thus far and no further. Their rebellion is nipped in the bud by their own generals. Surrender, they shout from the sidelines, give up the fort, they instruct their sentinels in the last line of defence. And then the 'superiors' ransack the deserted castle and blow their trumpets to signify that they have won the battle hands down.

Viva victors. All is fair in love and war. Especially mock wars.

### The armed spectators

**S**ELDOM, if ever, one has seen policemen, armed with lathis and shields sitting in the stands in a row during football matches in the Calcutta Maidan. Supporters have quarrelled, stones have been thrown, players have been heckled and so many other kinds of violent incidents have taken place, even at times causing heavy casualties. But those happenings are few and far between, taking place only when things deteriorate to very explosive stages due either to mismanagement on the part of the organisers or other reasons like wrong or biased decisions by the conductors of the matches. Big teams have played crucial league or shield matches, excitement has rose to fever pitch and yet things have passed off peacefully on most occasions, unless something really exasperating or provoking has occurred to spark off trouble among the football followers of the city. In fact, this has been the general atmosphere over the years.

Yet, for all this, never has there been the need to post police personnel in the galleries. So far they used to keep watch on the crowds from the ground and from around the entrances and exits.

The worst situations are witnessed during the big matches which are generally staged at the Eden Gardens, with fans of the rival clubs, sitting in two separate stands on either side of the clubhouse, exchanging missiles and gesticulating threateningly. At some stages the above-average enthusiasts even try to cross over the fences in a bid to start direct action, and the police have a harrowing time to dissuade them from their belligerency. Therefore, the move to quell troubles in the bud

# Bula bubbles in glory

K. R. WADHWANEY

IF the Swimming Federation of India (SFI) had instituted an award for an outstanding display in the National Age Group Aquatics Championships, West Bengal's 13 year old Bula Chowdhury would be the worthy recipient. What she lacked in way of height and strength was balanced by her fine technique, determination and temperament. She gave ample evidence of her swimming prowess as she broke records every time she plunged into Kanpur's 117 pool where record books were adorned with monotonous regularity between June 23-28.

Thin and pint sized Bula is as proficient on the cowl as she is on the back and butterfly strokes. While she has a powerful arm pull in the freestyle and back stroke she is also destined to make her presence felt in the grueling butterfly events with her powerful dolphin kick.

All the favourites and star swimmers were able to turn in record breaking performances. However, Maharashtra's Anita Sond, who will be 17 in August, looked disappointed.



Bula Chowdhury, star of the meet

did not rattle for not improving upon her records but lack of practice and because of the unfortunate ankle injury that she sustained at Gandhinagar three months ago.

Anita, however, reigned supreme in the freestyle events for senior girls. But she failed to break the one minute barrier in the 100 metres freestyle. This was because she had an injured ankle, and as a result could not use the kick to the fullest advantage. Nevertheless, Anita is

optimistic that she will recover her best form in the near future. Accompanied by her mother Anita will undergo another round of training at Patiala's NIS.

Anita Sond's team-mate Geeta Anand broke the three minute barrier in the 200 metres for women returning a time of 2:57.9. This is 17.2 seconds better than the record held by Madula Shastri. This is not all. The timing was also an improvement on the Indian national record.

Geeta, like Anita, comes from an affluent family. Moreover she gets all the encouragement from her pa-



Byaj Jain

## Troubled waters

THE Swimming Federation of India (SFI), nick-named the "Sleeping Federation of India", has chosen a new set of office-bearers. P. C. Jain, of Post and Telegraphs, has taken over as president from Patiala's Harika, who is ageing Dilip Mitra, of National Swimming Association (Calcutta), has achieved his life's ambition of taking over, as secretary from P. Ram Dev (Karnataka) who, during his tenure, was not as active as he should have been.

Mitra, a fine swimmer and water polo player, about three decades ago, is dedicated to aquatics. He knows the rules and regulations of the sport thoroughly. The renaissance in aquatics can begin provided Mitra is able to see beyond the National Swimming Association and Bengal. If he is unable to do so, as was the case with Pannalal Ahir some two decades ago, the affairs of the SFI may deteriorate. Similarly, Jain is known to possess organisational ability. One hopes Jain realises that serving sport is much more important than dabbling in politics of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

The SFI does not have even a shoe-string budget. It lives from hand to mouth and depends largely on Government grants. That is the most unfortunate part of the SFI officialdom which unfortunately has held self interest as more important than the cause of aquatics.

There is plenty of talent in this country. However it should be groomed with utmost care and dedication. There are at least a dozen below 14 years old swim-

mers, boys and girls, who have a lot of potential. If they are trained properly, and provided adequate food and facilities, they will be able to bring laurels to the country in the 1986 Seoul Asian Games, if not in New Delhi in November this year.

The selection committee will shortly be reconstituted. While Ram Dev has been nominated chairman and Vasant Nanavati as convener, the other five selectors will be nominated by the chairman in a few days. Hitherto, there have been charges by swimmers and water polo teams that names are finalised without watching trainees in action. The minimum that is expected from the Ram Dev's selection committee is to wipe off this ill feeling and mend their ways.

While ascertaining the correct age of participants continues to be a nightmare throughout the country as all agencies are ever willing to submit false and fabricated certificates, there is a school of thought who feel that, in addition to the age group, height should also be taken into account. According to them, those who are above 5 feet and six inches should constitute one group (boys and girls), while those who are under this stipulation will constitute another section. This grouping will provide girls in both the sections to swim along with boys and thereby improve upon their timings because of stiffer competition. The suggestion, as I can see it, is worth trying and at least swimmers will have more competition.

K.R.W.

# Sood's sad story

**MAHARASHTRA'S** 16-year-old Anita Sood was on the threshold of breaking the one-minute barrier in the 100 metres freestyle for women in India when she fractured her ankle at the Gandhinagar Asian Games coaching camp about three months ago in circumstances which were sad, to say the least. This is not all—But Anita, India's most outstanding woman freestyle swimmer, did not get proper attention immediately. She later returned home to Bombay where an X-ray revealed a hairline fracture of her ankle which immobilised her for six weeks.

According to information collected from different sources available at Gandhinagar (I have not spoken to Anita or her parents on the subject), Anita had finished her warm-up and weight training work-out when the foreign coach, Berand Johnke (GDR) asked her to play basketball. Anita, who loves swimming, expressed her unwillingness to play as she was totally exhausted. But the coach, under the mistaken notion that she was defying his instructions, insisted that Anita complied with his "orders".

Anita duly obeyed. But within



Anita Sood

rents, and one hopes her full potential is realised. Persis Madan (Maharashtra), S. Nanavati (Maharashtra), Nriha Alparwala (Maharashtra), Runa Das (NSA), Shama Shacoor (Karnataka) and T. Husainally (Maharashtra) were other competitors in the girls' groups who showed promise and potential. Unquestionably the girls showed greater improvement and better skill than the boys at these championships.

Bijay Jain, the 17 year-old freestyler from Maharashtra put up a very good show. Although some participants complained that he was over-age, he has the strength and stamina to make a name for himself in the Indian swimming scene.

Abhijit Ghosh (Bengal), was a very impressive exponent of the butterfly stroke and broke records in the 100 and 200 metres butterfly events. Biswajit Ghosh (Bengal), Mohd. Kamal Haque (Tripura), R. Shicari (Maharashtra), Jagdish Banik (Bengal) and G. Kapoor (Maharashtra) were other swimmers who made dents in records.

The IIT pool is ideal with the water crystal clear. Participants had no complaints about it. V. K. Pande, a victim of needless politics in the U. P.

Swimming Association worked untiringly to make the meet a success. The lodging for the participants and officials was more comfortable than that provided by many States in the past but the food was sub standard.

The proximity of the IIT, 16 kilometres from the Central Telegraph Office (CTO) made the smooth operation by Indian men hazardous. Had the organisers written to the Post and Telegraphs Department to instal temporary P.O. at



Geeta Anand

minutes she fell down and someone else heaped on her resulting in the injury to her ankle. She limped off the court. She was taken to the doctor, who was a general physician, and was treated for a sprain. In fact her ankle was even rubbed down. This aggravated her injury and, to her misfortune, a faulty X-ray examination in Gandhinagar revealed "no fracture".

The pain and swelling persisted. She opted to return to Bombay where another X-ray was taken and the fracture revealed.

Anita remained out of the water and other work-outs for six weeks. When she returned to swimming after the plaster was removed, Anita realised that her ankle could not withstand the strain. She consulted her doctors who advised her to "rest for another fortnight". But Anita was in no mood to miss the National Age Group Championships, which concluded at Kanpur on June 28.

Lack of practice and psychologically feeling her ankle injury, Anita failed to better any of her records. In fact, she returned very poor timings in most of the events. Disappointed but not disheartened, Anita is optimistic that she will soon regain her peak form. She is keyed up to be among the finalists in the forthcoming Asian. It seems possible. But much depends upon her ankle, work-outs, coaching programme and strategy.

the IIT, it would have solved many irritating problems and coverage would have been much wider and better.

The SII it must be mentioned, is guilty of not initiating effective measures to prevent over-age boys and girls from participating in different groups and thereby causing dis-appointment to many swimmers. National Swimming Association's Runa Das—once disqualified in Bombay for concealing her age—was participating in group two while many thought that she should have taken part in group one. The Tamil Nadu manager lodged an official protest against her. But the officialdom, dominated by Mr. Dilip Mitra, who is the virtual owner of the NSA, did not even consider the protest. Many felt it was nothing short of high-handedness.

Maharashtra claimed the overall championship with a tally of 593 points followed by Bengal with 480. The meet was robbed of a lot of talent as Kerala, bogged down by internal trouble between two factions, pulled out at the last minute. Had the Kerala team come there would surely have been more than the 25 records that were set during the six-day meet.

# The guardians of the game meet

PARTAB RAMCHAND

THE crowd disturbances at Madras and Bangalore against "dubious" decisions by the umpires in the Ranji Trophy knockout ties early this year were a new phenomenon in Indian cricket. Never before had this happened at these centres, where the crowd is considered to be the most sporting and knowledgeable in the country. Moreover, the serious riots occurred in quick succession—in the quarter-final match between Tamil Nadu and Delhi in the last week of February and in the semi-final between Bombay and Karnataka in the second week of March.

It was obvious that the umpires sub-committee at its meeting at Madras over this weekend would deeply consider the situation from all angles. After serious deliberations for many hours, the committee came up with some interesting recommendations and I shall try to analyse each as we go on.

The committee expressed concern at the disturbances at the two venues, which boasted fair and sports-minded spectators. It underlined the need to safeguard against such unpleasant incidents. It asked the players to co-operate, noting with regret that the gestures of some of the players had led to these disturbances. These gestures were either throwing the ball or cap onto the ground when an appeal was rejected or a batsman's reluctance to leave the crease when he was given out. It noted that umpires are human and make mistakes and that the players should take every decision in the sporting spirit.

All this is easier said than done. Who is a 'walker' nowadays? Hardly anyone. Even Vishwanath doesn't these days. To help augment this statement, let me illustrate. In the Ranji match against Karnataka at Madras in December 1978, Tamil Nadu led off with a total of 244 while in reply Karnataka were 15 for three. Vishwanath was holding firm but shortly along came a ball from Venkataraghavan that Vishwanath gently nudged into Jabbar's hands at short leg. Vishwanath did not 'go' and to an appeal the umpire ruled not out. Vishwanath went on to make 88, saving the match for Karnataka. After the day's play, I heard it from

more than one player that Vishwanath admitted that he was out, but did not 'walk' as his team was in a precarious situation.

The second recommendation was in regard to police bandobust. It said that the association staging the match was responsible for arranging proper police protection for the players and umpires. Adequate police squads should be posted at various places on the ground. This should be particularly followed very strictly when it is likely to be a close match.

This is a very good observation since the organisers just do not seem to bother about security arrangements. Again, let me elucidate. Off the last ball of the second day in the Tamil Nadu-Delhi match, Srinivasan was given out caught at silly point. It was a decision that aroused controversy since a section of the crowd thought that the ball had made contact with the ground before being caught by the fielder. As the players came off, the crowd swarmed into the field and then into the pavilion and shouted slogans against the umpires and Mohinder, the Delhi captain. Venkataraghavan appealed to them to calm down and take the umpire's decision in the proper spirit. After about an hour, the crowd dispersed. All this time, there was hardly any police personnel worth the name at the ground. If there was, the crowd could not have made its way to the pavilion for the distance between the various stands and the pavilion is anything between 100 and 200 yards.

Fortunately nothing untoward happened but it was obvious that from now on the match would be played in a tense atmosphere. Sensing further trouble, Venkataraghavan told a couple of TNCA officials that they had better make proper security arrangements for the remaining two days of the match. Astonishingly when I went to the ground on the third morning, I hardly saw any police squad. There were the usual handful of cops. Now, this was sheer negligence on the part of the officials. This woeful lack of anticipation cost them dearly on the fourth day. One by one, the "doubtful" decisions tested the crowd's patience until they could stand it no more.

When Vasudevan was given out, caught at backward short leg, as the batsman was clearly padding up, all hell broke loose. It was only after the crowd invaded the field, after the umpires were manhandled, after chairs were thrown on to the field and benches wrenched apart, that the organisers woke up and rushed to call the police, when with a little hindsight all this need not have taken place at all. Of what avail is wisdom that dawns too late? The consequences have to be suffered and Chepauk suffered the fact that its hitherto spotless white reputation was sullied.

A third recommendation was in regard to the statements and opinions voiced by radio commentators. The Bangalore riots were attributed, in part at least, to the fact that one of the commentators, a well-known cricket correspondent for a leading English daily, emphasised on the point that Vishwanath was a 'walker'. It may be recalled that the disturbances at Bangalore were sparked off when Vishwanath was given out caught. He hesitated, then departed unwillingly for the pavilion. The crowd saw their captain's reluctance and remembering his reputation, were naturally upset. The committee noted that the concerned commentator added "fuel to the fire" and "infuriated" the crowd by noting that Vishwanath was a 'walker', implying that there was an element of doubt to his dismissal.

This is a very interesting observation, one that brings to mind a bigger riot at a Test match, which was also attributed in part to a commentator's "rash opinion". Remember the Bombay Test against Australia in November 1969?

India were fighting hard to stave off defeat on the fourth evening and at this stage, Venkataraghavan was given out caught by Taber off Connolly. Venkataraghavan, another with a reputation as a 'walker', hesitated and the crowd sensed something wrong about the decision. Over their wireless sets, they then heard Devraj Puri telling the listeners that in his view, the bat had been nowhere the ball. That probably did incense the crowd further.

Rioting then followed in the blackest chapter of Brabourne Stadium's history, with chairs and bottles thrown about and fires being lit in various stands. At that time there were two schools of thought regarding Puri's comment. His colleagues contended that the spectators were in uproar even before his comment on the umpire's decision (could the same be said on the Bangalore incident?).

People who disagreed with Puri said that he should not have given an opinion from more than 100 yards away since the "umpire was always the best judge". This led to a writer remarking that "if the intention is to



keep out all controversial remarks, a code of mute conduct for objective coverage can be evolved and broad casters groomed—in which case the words 'commentary' and 'commentator' should go out and 'broadcast' and 'broadcaster' be substituted."

Another commentator said that he heard a roar of protest when Venkatapathan was given out and "To say that his remark upset the public is to believe that spectators were otherwise blind to the occurrence." Fellow commentators in Puri's defence insisted that it was a broadcaster's duty to inform the radio audience of the facts as he heard and saw them.

The committee was satisfied with the response from the captains who sent in reports on the umpires. About 75 per cent of the captains sent in their reports. These reports are important for if five captains give an adverse report on any umpire, that official will not be eligible to stand in further first class matches. The umpires are also eligible to send in reports on the conduct of the match, the players, the captains and the organisers, but the response here is not very encouraging. Is this also indicative of the umpires' lack of confidence in the Board?

The committee also did make a note of Gavaskar's left-right-left batting in the match against Karnataka. It was of the view that while there is nothing in the rules against such batting it was an unwarranted display, not in keeping with the Indian captain's stature. It was painful that Gavaskar should resort to such gimmicks when he should be setting an example to the youth of this country.

The committee's recommendations will now go before the Working Committee, which will ratify it. But before they do so, the Board could also pay more attention to improving the technical equipment of umpires under conditions which impose an increasing strain on the observation and judgement of umpires. More reliable methods that are followed today should be devised to test physical fitness, eyesight, sense of hearing and stamina—no less than the mental attitude required for sound umpiring. The necessity to concentrate on the essential aspects of the work and to extract what is integral to the decision from extraneous or subjective factors such as the vehemence of the appeal or the attitude of the crowd must be particularly emphasised. On their part the players would be well advised in the fair name of the game, not to bully or pressurise the umpire into giving the wrong decisions. Indian crowds, by and large, are disciplined, but still proper police handobust is necessary to combat the "hot heads" in the audience. Regarding commentators one can't be dogmatic, but only advise them to refrain from making any remark that could cause trouble.

# Board to wield the cane

TO its innumerable committees, the Board of Control for Cricket in India is very soon likely to have a Disciplinary Committee. But whereas the cynics may scoff at the functioning of many of its committees—or even wonder whether it was necessary to form some of the committees in the first place—there is no denying the fact that it is about time that a disciplinary committee be formed.

Actually, this move has been on the cards for some time, but what has made the Board possibly resolve to finally act was the alarming tendency among players to misbehave on the field of play. This misbehaviour ranged from obscene gestures at the umpires, en dissatisfaction against an umpire's decision, incessant talking with the batsmen, showering abusive language at one another and so on.

The discipline of the players has been in doubt for some years now but was really "hit for six" in last year's domestic tournaments. As a witness to some of the Ranji Trophy matches played, I can readily testify that all is not well with the players once they get on the field of play. They may be the best of friends before they step on to the field and after the day's play they might even possibly share a drink at the bar. But with cricket having ceased to be a game—at least in the minds of some players—the animal instinct in every human being surfaces once the intensity of the contest becomes "hot". The players now want to win at any cost, by treachery, by foul means or foul, by malpractice or by openly flouting the rules. All they want is to win, win, win!

Just last month we had the umpire pulling up Edmonds in the Lord's Test against India for "having words" or "incessantly talking" to Venkatarai. This naturally disturbs the concentration of batsmen and the umpires were right within the spirit of the game in pulling up Edmonds who was fielding at short leg. I was happy with the umpire's action but was not entirely shocked by Edmonds' behaviour. For I had seen enough of it in domestic matches. The Tamil Nadu-Delhi Ranji Trophy quarter final was a classic case of misbehaviour by the players. In fact, it was so bad that it was one of the two major factors that led to crowd invasions, on the second and the fourth day. The other was of course being dubious decisions by umpires. When the amiable and sports loving crowd of Madras is guilty of something they have never done before one can be sure that they have been tested beyond limits.

I can readily testify that this was so. Even from the Press Box one could see that all was not right on the field of play. There seemed to be some unpleasant exchanges between the batsmen and the close in fielders. But after talking with some of the players involved, I was shocked to hear the kind of language spoken. All kinds of words—vulgar, from letter ones—were freely exchanged. Even when provoked such language is unpardonable. But on occasions there was no cause for provocation and yet bad language was used, simply as a means to pressurise the batsmen into getting out. Batsmen given out to doubtful decisions were told in the most abusive language to get out when they seemed reluctant to leave the crease. Even batsmen who were on the way to the pavilion after being dismissed, were abused. Then the fielders in virtually every close-in position, seemed to indulge in a continuous chatter before every ball was bowled—and at times even when the ball was actually being bowled!

I gather that the same thing happened in Bangalore during the Karnataka-Bombay semi-final. In fact, some players have told me that this is very much prevalent in almost every match. The way they talk about it, one would think of it as some sort of fad.

Well, if it is the "in" thing it soon better be "out". And that is why the Board is likely to form the Disciplinary Committee at its Working Committee meeting in Pune in August. It will be interesting to see what action the new committee will take to solve this alarming problem.

Moreover, such behaviour should also be condemned for the devastating effect it has on the crowd. For example, two Delhi players continued making unseemly gestures towards the crowd for no apparent reason and thus added fuel to the fire. The spectators, already incensed by the fact that, in their view, the home batsmen were getting a raw deal via dubious umpiring decisions, could stand it no longer. While they ostensibly invaded the field, threw chairs and wrenched benches in an angry gesture against the umpires, they had also been angered by this "needling" by the two Delhi players. In fact, after they crossed over the pavilion they not only shouted slogans against the umpires but also called out to the two Delhi players—both of them Indian stars—to come out and face them if they dared. So looking at it from any angle, the bad behaviour by the players is hardly one to be condoned. If anything, the Disciplinary Committee, when formed, should devise ways and means to combat this growing menace in a firm way other than see the noble game sullied. Otherwise, the law and order problem at cricket grounds may become acute and uncontrollable.

PARTAB RAMCHAND



## First it was Fingleton, now Ray Robinson

**T**HE last of Australia's great cricket writers, Raymond John Robinson, died on 6 July, 1982, just a couple of days short of what would have been his 77th birthday in Sydney. With his going a fort fell and Australian cricket writing closed its Great Book.

Ray Robinson had been involved deeply with reporting at the highest level of the game for more than four decades, his first overseas tour being with the Australians in 1934 when Bradman and Ponsford were flexing their muscles to take charge and Woodfull was pointing the sabre from the front. That began a tryst with the game that was to last into well over 140 Tests and which brought across his way the most number of overseas tours made by any cricketing scribe from his country.

His ability to scan through the scenes of battle and transfer the visual impressions into print with the faintest trace of bias made him a very popular writer—in fact, the most renowned and widely read Australian in that sport—and he picked his ability to convey with a rare blend of anecdotal comments and wit.

Ray Robinson, a Tasmanian by birth, was primarily connected, as

far as cricket reporting went, with the Fairfax Group, writing for *Sun* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* while retaining simultaneously the distinction of being the Australian correspondent of *The Cricketer* for three decades and a half, the cricket correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* for more than three and a prolific writer for *The Times*, *The Observer*, *The Cricketer* (Australia) and *The World of Cricket* (India). At one stage his goodwill as a writer so burst its seams that his daily write-ups on Test matches used to appear simultaneously in 20 major cities of the Commonwealth.

Robinson's ability to sift through a heap of details and emerge with the substance was indeed remarkable. And what in the end lent credibility to his stature as a confirmed critic of the loftiest pedigree was his ability of retaining a certain vividness of description while writing for his paper, that of another city, another country and for even mastheads across the continents—all that very evening! And he was one of the few writers who could view the game's past and its lot of characters without looking through the glasses of prejudice. Just a couple of years ago, he declared that he considered Gordon Greenidge to be the hardest hitter since the War. Typical of him, other

writers without entirely disagreeing over the choice would have added a pinch of moderation in language and brought it down to 'one of the' Not so for Robinson.

But it shall be as a cricket author that posterity shall profile the man. He brought to it a new style, so to say alloying the virtues of meticulous research and readability to a hard and to such an extent that you sometimes wondered whether he himself had not been on the field, now shuttling from first slip to third, reading the bowler's mind from mid-off, standing between the captain and his deputy as they discussed the strategies of battle, in incognito, of course.

His effort with which he broke ground was *Between Wickets* published in 1946 and which still remains a bedside book. It always will. Robertson Glasgow was of the opinion that it was "A book to be read, every line of it and not to be lent without an IOU." But the main pat on the back was to come from Cardus himself. His "The best book on cricket written by an Australian so far" pinned the decoration on a deserving breast.

He followed that with *From the Boundary* (1951), *Green Spies* (1954), *The Glad Season* (1955), *The Wildest Tests* (1972-79) and *On Top Down Under* in 1976. It was his final work that won him universal cricketing acclaim. His research to effectively portray each of the 35 captains of Australia since 1877 was compendious and for that he was adequately rewarded by being asked to fly to England and receive a cheque from the Cricket Society Jubilee Literary Award for 1977. John Arlott, the president of the English Cricket Writers' Association, made another presentation to him and when Don Moyes asked him to sign his copy of the book there, the request was slipped in to write in addition "Not really a sex manual."

Nearly every book of his topped the 100,000 mark on the sales chart and such was the command of his over the technique that one passage of his was translated into a French book for research by language students. Quite a few of his books made a beeline for subsequent editions and not a few of his essays found their way into anthologies.

The last few years took a toll of his eyesight and he stopped going abroad for some time before his death. But on home grounds he could still be found, zest and an appetite for hard work undiminished, a pair of binoculars slung across his neck and pounding away at his machine. When Ray Robinson died on the first Tuesday of July, this year, a friend found an incomplete copy of the obituary of Ken 'Slasher' Mackay fixed in his typewriter. Now it is his turn.

MUDAR PATHERYA



Ray Robinson—a familiar sight and a hard worker

## Of signals and appeals

1) Signalling is very important in umpiring. It is imperative that the persons wearing white coats should know the code of signalling. An umpire must also demand that every signal is promptly acknowledged by the official scorer. Whatever the urgency, the umpire must not allow the game to resume until and unless the last signal has been acknowledged.

There is a mistaken notion among players and some umpires that double appeal is not permissible. A second appeal is justified when the first appeal fails and the fielding side consider that another appeal to the same or other umpire might be sustained. An umpire must, therefore, remain totally involved with the game all the time so that he is not caught unaware if

the second appeal is made. B. P. King of Lancashire was batting against Surrey's Stan Squires and the ball went through his pads. Squires appealed for LBW, but the late Frank Chester negatived it because King had soberly played the ball. The ball was, however, caught in the slip by Eddie Watts, who appealed for a catch. Chester

praised his finger almost as soon as he had given not out for the same incident. Chester was involved in yet another incident of similar nature. Don Bradman (51) was at his usual best against England in 1938 when he attempted a forward defensive shot against Reg Sinfeld. The ball was gathered by Leslie Ames, who was standing right over the stumps. He whipped off the bails and appealed to Emmett Robinson who, at square-leg, negatived the stumping appeal. Ames then appealed to Chester who, at the bowler's end, declared Bradman caught at the wicket. It was a classic decision. Later, Bradman complimented Chester and told him that it was one of the best decisions in his cricket career. Bradman, in his book *Farewell to Cricket* wrote how great an umpire Chester was. Here are some problems.

Q: The sight-screens are pitched within the playing area. A

hit from the batsman lands direct on one of the screens and the fielders standing underneath holds the ball before it touches the ground. An appeal for 'caught' is made. (1) Can the appeal be sustained and (2) can a 'six' be awarded?

A: (1) No, the batsman is not out as, according to the law, the sight-screens within the playing area are regarded as 'boundary'.

Q: A no-ball is bowled. The striker moves out to play it but is only able to edge it. As the ball trickles, the wicket-keeper steps in front of the wicket, gathers the ball and breaks the wicket with the striker out of the crease. Is he out, if so how?

A: The striker is not out as he cannot be stumped off a no-ball. He cannot be run out either as he was not attempting any run.



(2) Six runs will be awarded, provided the ball is struck directly over a sight-screen so situated. If the ball hits the sight-screen full-pitch, only four runs will be awarded.

Q: The striker plays the ball a few yards in front of him and attempts a run. Finding a fielder rushing in to pick up the ball, he returns and accidentally kicks the ball on to his own stumps. The bails fall down while the striker is out of his crease. Is the batsman out, if so how?

A: The batsman is not out as the ball was not intercepted by any fielder as laid down in the Law.

Q: The striker goes out to play a ball, but misses it. The ball hits his pads and is rolling back when the wicket-keeper gathers it and breaks the wicket with the striker still out of the crease. Is the striker out, if so how?

A: The striker is stumped.

Q: A batsman at the wicket is indisposed and wishes to retire. Is the consent of the fielding captain necessary?

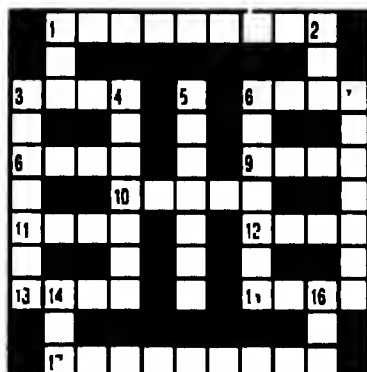
A: There is no need for the batsman to obtain the fielding captain's consent for retiring. But it is imperative to obtain the consent of the rival captain before he resumes his innings.



# Crossword

MUDAR

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## ACROSS

- 1 Spanish tennis player, who ends in ages (1, 8)
- 3 A big shot in the Asian Games Organising Committee is unwell in the end (4)
- 6 A type of tennis court (4)  
8 An Indian batsman of yore with an appropriate beginning, returns (4)  
Perhaps the greatest wrestler of all time who came from what is now, Pakistan (4)
- 10 What Miss Jacobs and Miss Wills moody of the tennis world had in common (5)  
Conpton, the cricketer initially (1 1 1 1)
- 12 A direction for a Bridge term (4)
- 13 To shut hard for a great tennis achievement (4)
- 15 What Placid is besides belonging to the dictionary only (4)
- 17 An international game of Indian orig" (9)

## DOWN

- 1 An Indian cricketer of old (3)
- 2 What Sobers, Frank Worrell, Bradman and Hutton have in common (3)
- 3 Sri Lankan born batsman who is now eligible to play for England (1 6)
- 4 Brearley's middle name, returns (7)
- 5 A finalist in two successive football World Cups and unsuccessful in both (7)
- 6 Alistair of English cricket who plays professional rugby too (7)
- 7 Perhaps, the best of crickets present after-dinner speakers (1, 6)
- 14 A tennis shot (3)
- 16 First name of a tennis master who won everything except Wimbledon (3)

Excellent 20—18, Good 17—15 Fair 14—13.

# Question box

Answers by Sudhir Joshi

Anil Sowant, Bombay

Q What are the dates of birth of Sunil Gavaskar and Don Bradman?  
Sunil Gavaskar was born on 10 July, 1949 while Bradman was born on 27 August 1908

A B Barnabas, Calcutta

Q. What is the standard size of a cricket ball and a stump?

A The ball when new shall measure not less than 8 13 16 inches 22.4 cm nor be more than 9 inches 22.9 cm in circumference. The stumps shall be of equal and sufficient size to prevent the ball from passing between them. Its top shall be 28 inches 71.1 cm above the ground and shall be dome-shaped except for the bail grooves

Q If a wicket-keeper gets injured in a match and is incapacitated from keeping wickets can a substitute keep the wickets?

A Only one among the regular members of the side can keep wickets

Rohit Jain, New Delhi

Q Where and when was Syed Kirmani born?

A 29 December 1951 at Madras J Isaac, Madras

Q How many Indian batsmen have made a century on their Test debuts?

A L Amarnath D H Shodhan A G Kripal Singh, A A Baij Hanuman Singh G R Vishwanath and S Amarnath

Ashis Chandra Kumar Asansol

Q How many Indian batsmen have registered a double century in Tests? Please name them

A V Mankad (231 223) P R Umrigar (223) S M Gavaskar (221 220 205) G R Vishwanath (222), D N Sardesai (212 200) M A K Pataudi (203)

Kalyana Gogri, Durgam

Q Can a pitch be changed during a match?

A No

Mohan Nair, Ahmedabad

Q What is the highest number of runs scored in an innings by Ajit Wadekar?  
A 143 versus Zealand at Wellington in 1967-68

## SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 156



Barahmihir Mishra, Barhampur

Q What is Tony Greig's highest score in Tests?

A 148 against West Indies at Bridgetown in 1973-74

Satyadav R Pandey, Bombay

Q When did Ranjitsinhji make his Test debut?

A In the second Test against Australia at Manchester in 1896

Umesh Chandra Sahu, Sambalpur

Q Who scored the fastest century in Tests in how many minutes and against whom?

A J M Gregory of Australia has scored the fastest century in Tests—in 70 minutes in the second Test against South Africa at Johannesburg in 1921-22

Prabhat Chakraborty, New Delhi

Q How many wickets have Kapil Dev and Karsan Ghavri taken in Tests?

A Before embarking on the tour of England in 1982, Kapil Dev had bagged 147 wickets in 38 Tests. Ghavri has 109 wickets in 39 Tests to his credit

Q How many captains has India named including Sunny Gavaskar?

A India has named a total of 20 captains including Sunil Gavaskar in the 195 Tests played by it so far

## Quiz

Rajni Ghosh

## QUESTIONS

Identify the following sport personalities

- 1 Sun Jinfang
- 2 Ramaz Shengeliya
- 3 Erwin Vandenberg
- 4 Tibor Nyilas
- 5 Roger Milla
- 6 Gu Guangming
- 7 Maxime Bossis
- 8 Luis Miguel Arconada
- 9 Olga Bicherova
- 10 Waltraud Kretschmar

## ANSWERS

- 1 Chinese woman volleyballer who carried away three trophies in the 3rd World Cup (held at Japan from July 11 to 16, 1982) which was won by China
- 2 Football striker for USSR and Tbilisi Dynamo and member of USSR's World Cup (1982) soccer squad
- 3 Member of Belgium's World Cup (1982) soccer squad (he scored against Argentina)
- 4 Member of Hungary's World Cup (1982) soccer squad (Defender)
- 5 Striker of Cameroon's World Cup (1982) soccer squad (Defender)
- 6 Striker of China's national football team
- 7 Member of France's World Cup (1982) soccer team
- 8 Goalkeeper of Spain's World Cup (1982) soccer squad (Defender)
- 9 Overall women's champion at the 1981 World Gymnastics Championships (Represented the USSR)
- 10 Captain of the GDR women's handball team for the past few years

Parasramka Margherita, Assam and S Satish Rao, Gurpal Singh, Chittaranjan

Q What is meant by a googly, half-volley and a chinaman?

A A googly is an off break delivery by a leg-break bowler delivered with the action of a leg-break whereas a 'china man' is delivered by a left-arm spinner with the action of an off-break, but in actual practice it is a leg break for a right-hand batsman. A half-volley is the ball delivered in the block hole that is, just under the ball. Normally a batsman converts the deliveries to half-volleys with his anticipated action.

Mohanlal Mukherjee, Calcutta

Q Is a batsman out if the ball strikes his pads first then his bat and the catch is taken?

A No

Gulran Khan, Cuttack.

Q A batsman played a shot defensively and the ball went to hit the stumps. In this situation if the batsman stops the ball with his hand or bat or catches it, is the batsman out or not out?

A The batsman will be not out, if he stops the ball from going towards his wicket with his bat. But he will be declared out, if he stops such a ball with his hands or catches it.

Vijay Kishore, New Delhi

Q If a bowler takes two wickets in two consecutive deliveries in an over and the third wicket is taken by him after bowling a no-ball in between then can the feat be called as hat-trick?

A No. A hat-trick should be taken off three consecutive fair deliveries.

G. B. Mohapatra, Puri and Asit Baran Mallick, Bhubaneswar

Q Is it permissible for a wicket-keeper to remove his gloves and go on to bowl in the middle of the match? Are there any instances of a wicket-keeper bowling in a match?

A Yes, a wicket-keeper can bowl in a match. A memorable and unique example, of a wicket-keeper bowling in a match and capturing more wickets than any other regular bowler, can be cited in the third Test between England and Australia at The Oval in 1884 when England's wicket-keeper A. Lytton bowled 12-5-19-4 in the first innings.

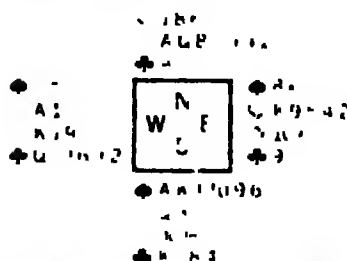
Rajender Kaushal, Vishakhapatnam

Q Who has played more Test innings, Geveskar or Vishwanath?

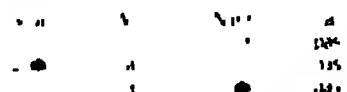
A Vishwanath

## Bridge

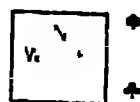
Last week I reviewed Martin Hoffman's new book *Hoffman on Fair Play*, but there was so much interesting material that I can't resist reproducing another hand. After discussing his intense dislike of out and out psychic bids, Martin now admits that he has been known to make the occasional deceptive bid.



North dealt at one all and this was the bidding:



West led a trump against the slam. Martin won in dummy took a heart trick and on the Ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. The declarer's trick with the diamond was a deceptive bid. Now enough of the truth about the bid (and you would have later seen it in the hand 4?) The declarer's bid was a deceptive bid.



On the last trump West parted with ♠ A (you can see why) but now Martin cashed ♠ K and led ♠ Q forcing East to concede the last trick to the Jack of hearts. It was a perfect example of a Winkle squeeze.

**Last week's quiz.** At game all you dealt as South with ♠ K 4 ♥ A K J 9 7 ♦ Q 5 ♣ A 7 6 4 and opened one heart. West overcalled with two diamonds which was passed round to you. I would reopen with two hearts rather than with a double. My hearts are good and my choice will hardly lead to a disaster even if partner is very short in the suit. By contrast the reopening double might invite partner to respond in a poor four card spade suit (at the two level) and this could lead to a silly contract.

**This week's quiz.** A reader asks "What are short suit trial bids and are they a good idea?" In case you haven't met them, before I shall answer the first part of the question and leave you to brood about their merits. When a player opens with one of a major suit and is offered a single raise by his partner, a bid in a new suit is a trial bid. In classical style you mention a suit where you have some length and want help. If following the short suit method you tell your partner about a suit in which you have no interest at all.

## Chess

Most chess players with any claims to seriousness have read or at least looked into *My System* by Aron Nimzowitsch but very very few of them are acquainted with this great work's forerunner the booklet *Die Blockade* published in Berlin in 1925. Until recently it had never been translated into English, an extraordinary omission on the part of our many printing houses. This has been rectified at last by the publication by Chess Enterprises Inc. of Chasopolis, Pennsylvania, of *Blockade*, translated by Dr Joseph Platz. According to Nimzowitsch blockade is "the mechanical obstruction of an enemy pawn by a piece" and "accomplished by placing one's own piece on the square immediately in front of the pawn to be blockaded. Masters knew about this before Nimzowitsch but he was the first fully to explain the logic of it. Here is a pioneer example by the hyperstrategist

White: Aron Nimzowitsch; Black: Georg Selow French Defence (Carlsbad 1911)

1 P-K4, P-K3, 2 P-K4, P-K4  
3 P-K3, P-QB4, 4 P-QB3, N-KB3  
5 N-KB3, B-K3, 6 B-K3, B-K2  
7 P-KP, B-KP, 8 Q-Q, P-K3  
9 P-QB4, B-K2, 10 B-KB4, P-KP  
11 N-KP, N-KB3, 12 B-K2, N-K3  
13 N-K2, Q-Q, 14 N-K3, B-K3  
15 B-K2, N-K1, 16 B-K4, Q-K2  
17 N-K3

White's plans have triumphed. The KP and QP are totally blockade.

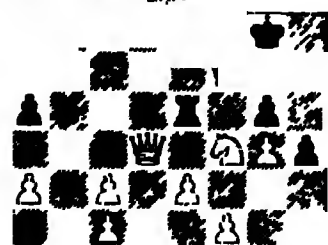
17 B-K1, 18 N-K1, B-K2  
19 B-K2, Q-K3, 20 B-K4, B-K2  
21 Q-K2, B-KB2, 22 R-K3, P-QB3  
23 B-K3

Black cramped by weakness of the dark square, and his immobile central pawns will have no answer to the direct attack.

23 K-K1, 24 B-KP, P-K4  
25 B-K2, B-K2, 26 B-K1, Q-K3  
27 B-K3, P-Q5, 28 B-KB3, B-KP  
29 B-KP, P-KR, 30 Q-KP, K-K1  
31 P-QB3, K-B1, 32 B-K4, B-K1  
33 B-K5, Q-K5, 34 Q-KR, P-KR  
35 B-KR, K-KR, 36 B-K3, K-K3  
37 B-K2, P-KR, 38 K-B1, B-K3  
39 P-KB4, Resigns

Competition 6529. Solution next week.

By J.



White

White to play and win. Grade 3 (medium).  
Solution to 6528 (Duskin - Bohn, Syracuse, 1934)  
(4d3/3d32/1p1q1r1/3p4/3K3B/3B4PP4P1/2R3

K1 - White to play)  
The game concluded 27 R-K4, Q-KR, R-K  
Q-RB4, K-K2, 28 K-B3, Q-G1, 30  
K-L, K-K1, K-K2, 31 P-BR and Black resigned.

Problem No 1195. Solution next week.

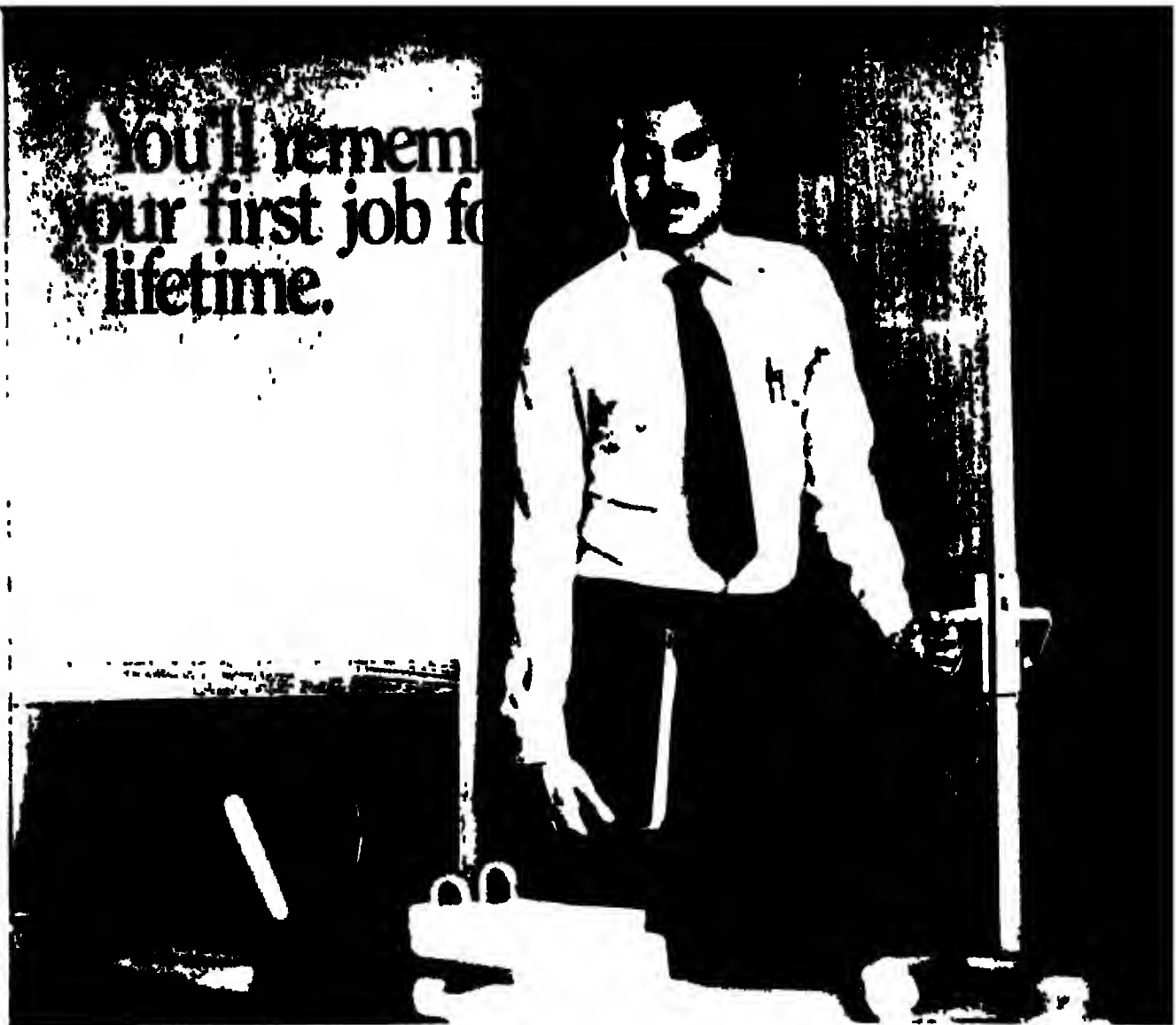
A. Kish (American Chess Monthly, 1936)  
(4R3/4B1/3p4/3P1R1/1N1P3.2p1P2/2R4/1q  
2R1 - 11 white men, 7 black)

White to play and mate in two moves.

Solution to No 1194 (Main)

(1R6/1p4p1/4R3/1N13p/3P4/1P1P1R1B/2R4  
2R4 - mate in two) 1 P-Q4 threat R-K, Q-L  
1 K-KR, 2 K-B7, 3 Q-P, 2  
R-Q1, 4 Q-R, 5 Q-R, 6 B-K, 7  
Q-R, 8 B-K, 9 B-K, 10 Q-K4, 11 K-L

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**THREE TIMES BETTER**



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2 Guard against dental plaque  
3 Guard gums

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VOLUME IV ISSUE 4 AN ANANDA BAZAR PUBLICATION



**10 WHO WILL OPEN?**  
The controversy gained much momentum after Shastri's showing in The Oval Test and every cricket fan is now humming the same question. Much of the mystery is attempted at by PARTAB RAMCHAND who feels that for the coming battles it should be Chohan or Srikkanth



**20 CLIMAX TO CATASTROPHE**  
It began with the Federation Cup which Mohun Bagan won but the run was downhill. DEREK O'BRIEN takes a look at the club's success graph

**27 RANJIT THAPA**  
One of the very good players of Indian football Ranjit Thapa comes under the spotlight again as HARESH MUNWANI profiles the man with usual depth



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Cover transparency of Shyam Thapa by Jayanta Setti

Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sen et al  
Correspondents: Bombay Hareesh Munwani Madras Anand Karanth  
Staff Photographer Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Art Director Rajul Galla  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Goodbye Vishy

AFTER watching Gundappa Vishwanath as a batsman for over a decade I have come to the conclusion that he is an ordinary batsman, even though he has scored over 6,000 runs in Test cricket with 14 centuries to his credit. I find quite a few faults in his batting which I am putting down here:

1) Vishwanath's defence is not very sound and he is especially weak against leg spinners. He is vulnerable against the rising balls and against ones that swing away.

2) He is not a good chooser of the balls and one can easily tempt him by bowling outside the off stump.

3) He never plays according to the situation. Though he has saved India many a time I feel that he is mostly responsible for India's batting debacle.

4) His stance is not perfect. He applies too much pressure on his bat and takes too much time to switch his bat from one position to another.

I cannot understand how with all these faults, people can call him a great batsman. In the recently-concluded series against England he played very badly though he scored two fifties. They were mainly due to luck and not the result of good batting. I hope that Ashok Malhotra takes his place in the coming series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Goodbye Vishy.

**BADAL BHATTACHARJEE,**  
Behala

### Which one?

IN reply to a question by Mr J P Agarwal in the issue of 7 July, Sudhir Vaidya has mentioned that Dilip Sardesai holds the record for the fastest

Test century by an Indian. However, in a recent issue of a leading Hindi magazine of the country it was mentioned that the fastest 100 by an Indian was made by Lala Amarnath at Bombay in 1933-34. Could you take the trouble to clarify? **RAKESH KUMAR**

**PODDAR**  
Dumka  
(The fastest Test century by an Indian was made by Lala Amarnath and not Dilip Sardesai as mentioned—Editor)

### Heartiest congratulations

PLEASE convey my heartiest congratulations to the Indian cricket team and especially to Sunil Gavaskar for losing the series against England in England, this summer.

**M KRISHNA KUMAR,**  
Secunderabad

### Best-ever Indian team

MY team chosen, from the players who represented India, is as follows: S M Gavaskar (captain), Vijay Merchant, Vijay Hazare, G R Vishwanath, Vinoo Mankad, Polly Umrigar, Kapil Dev, S M H Kulkarni, Mohammed Nissar, E A S Prasanna and B S Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar. The only bowler from this group is that of Bedi but it must be explained that Mankad as a bowler was nearly as good as and, of course, a very good batsman who could lend stability to the middle order.

**JAYANT SINHA,**  
New Delhi

THIS is my best Indian team: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), S Venkataraghavan (vice captain), Ajit Wadekar, Vishwanath, Sunil Gavaskar, F M Engineer, Dilip Sardesai, M L Jaisimha, Kapil Dev, Prasanna and Chandrasekhar. Twelfth man: Eknath Solkar.

**BE NTAMIN,**  
Bangalore

# Don't let a cold ruin your day.



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MY Indian team is as follows: Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (captain), Vinoo Mankad, Sunil Gavaskar, Vijay Hazare, Polly Umrigar, G R Vishwanath, Kapil Dev, F M Engineer, Mohammed Nissar, B S Bedi and Chandiashekhar. Twelfth man Vijay Merchant

N AJIT KUMAR,  
Cochin

## Great service

I FEEL that it would be a great service to the country's state of affairs if the editor of *Sportsworld*, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, went in for a career in political journalism. I think that his talents have been wasted in sports journalism and I am sure that we would benefit from his views on the national political scene. If I am not mistaken, Pataudi has also once contested the elections and, moreover, this was confirmed when I heard in an interview with him on the television that he was greatly interested in politics.

C JAYANTHI  
Sindri

## Excellent blow-ups

DURING the World Cup soccer tournament your issues of *Sportsworld* gave us excellent coloured blow-ups of ten individual soccer stars of the world and of the matches too. Apart from this *Sportsworld* carried out a detailed coverage of the matches and gave adequate publicity to the tournament before and after it began. I feel that this was done better than any other sports magazine of the country. I wish to express my thanks and congratulations to you and your magazine for this wonderful role.

SEBASTIAN JOHN ANTHONY,  
Pune

## Final say

Italy took on Poland in the first semi-finals of the World Cup. One wonders who Pope John Paul II was rooting for?

DEREK O'BRIEN  
Calcutta

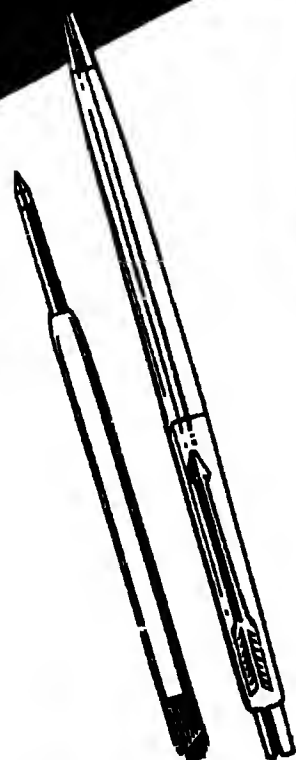
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## JOGGING DOESN'T SAVE THE BACON

**Arizona** If you've been running for your life, forget it. Here's why: Arizona's celebrated jogging pigs are now simply anonymous packets of bacon on supermarket shelves. Fifty-four porkers were used in a pig-jogging project at the State University to study the effect of diet/exercise on health. The pigs were divided into three groups and given different diets and levels of exercise. Before being slaughtered, their blood was analysed and it was found that while the joggers ate less and grew shapelier legs (!) only the pigs with low-fat diets had healthier blood though they had no exercise which for man means that a balanced diet is more essential than the best exercise to protect against heart disease.

## REAL FIGURES ARE MORE FUN

**London** Which international cricketer would rather score a century than score with Raquel Welch? You guessed it—Geoff Boycott who declared in an LBC radio interview that given the choice between Raquel Welch and a hundred at Lord's he'd take the hundred everytime!

## FIGHTING CRIME AT A GALLOP

**Hollywood** Not since the 1920s has Los Angeles seen anything like it. Los Angeles is the hottest crime spot in the world and will now have cops on horseback patrolling the streets. Explaining the move one inspector said the additional height gave greater visibility while crowds also tend to respect officers on horseback.

BERNIE TELLIS



"THIS SHOULD BE AN EASY GAME IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'VE REACHED PUBERTY YET."



"Y'KNOW, I'M STARTIN' TO GET THE FEELIN' THERE'S MORE OF THEM THAN US ..."



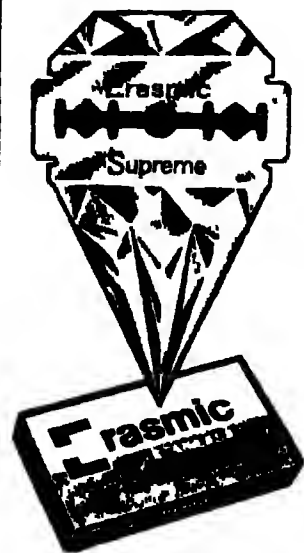
"HE'S JUST BEEN GIVEN THE TOUGHEST JOB IN SPORTS BROADCASTING MAKING TELEVISED SOCCER SEEM EXCITING."

□□ I don't believe a well worn passport  
is a symbol of success.  
Nor even the number of credit cards  
in a wallet.  
I believe in an appearance  
that's personal.  
A look that says it all without  
having to say a word...



But first,  
a super-smooth shave □□  
to give me the edge.

**Erasmic Supreme**  
The blade with the diamond edge.





# My most memorable moments

## GUDALORE JAGANNATH

**T**HERE surely have been few dedicated, disciplined and selfless sportsmen in the history of independent India as Gudalore Jagannath. He is the perfect model for any aspiring youngster trying to become an international star. Born in Hyderabad on March 20, 1945, Jagannath along with his family moved to Madras at an early age. He took to table tennis seriously at the age of 13 and the same year (1958) won the non-medallists singles title in the first tournament he took part in. He was ranked State junior No. 2 that year, went on to become No. 1 the following year and in 1961 was given top spot in the seniors list. He first represented India in the world championships in 1965 and this provided the rare instance of two brothers being members of the same squad (his elder brother Ranganayakulu also made the trip to Yugoslavia). He participated in five more World Championships, before announcing his retirement after the Calcutta championships in 1975, saying that he wanted to make way for the youth. Jagannath won the national table tennis title in 1970 at Calcutta, and figured in the top ten in the all-India rankings continuously from 1964 to 1979. After that since he did not play in zonal tournaments, he did not qualify for the ranking list. But time and again, he has proved more than a match for the most promising youngsters in the country. He led India in international events from 1969 to 1975 and was later the coach of the team. In 1971, he was ranked No. 2 in the Commonwealth and among his contemporaries, he has had the best record in international competition. Even now at 37, he puts in his daily practice stint, participates in tournaments, is always ready to give a helping hand to budding youngsters and has initiated many coaching camps in Madras. A chop defence expert from the start of his career, Jagannath is sports the officer with the Integral Coach Factory, a post given to him for his outstanding contribution to Railway sports by the Ministry of Railways.

It has been a long, eventful and rewarding career and I have enjoyed many memorable moments

So many of them are important that I don't know where to start, but I shall try to recount them one by one as they come to mind. Naturally, the winning of the national title was a great day and I won it by dethroning Mir Kasim Ali, who had won the previous two years, in straight games. The 1969 Jabalpur Nationals was also memorable for me. Against all expectations, Railways won the Barna Bellack Cup and I had the good fortune to win all my matches. In the final, a few gave our team any chance against Maharashtra who were represented by Khodaiji, Chachad and Merchant. But we did overcome them in a thrilling tie.

I am particularly proud of my record in the nationals and other domestic tournaments. In the nationals, for example, I was the winner once, runner-up once (to Manjit Dua in Madras in 1974) and reached the semi-finals nine times. Then from 1965 to 1976 I was never beaten before the quarter-final round in any tournament in India. In 1964, Khodaiji beat me in the pre-quarter final in the nationals. The next time I lost before the quarter-final round was not until 1976 when Prem Bedi defeated me in the last 16 stage in the Northern India Regional Tournament. I am the only player to have won the prestigious Times of India tournament at Delhi five times, including three years in a row (1969 to 1971). The Press used to point out, that I was the most consistent player on the circuit and my record proved it.

I have had some notable triumphs against international players. In 1974 when the South Korean team visited India, I had a great match against their No. 1 player, Choi Sung Kuk. We shared four games and then in the decider I trailed 17-20. But I took the next five points to win the match. The next year Kuk defeated Stellan Bengtson in the Calcutta World Championships—proof that I had scored a fine victory over a world-ranked star.

The same year, a Japanese team visited India to play five

“Tests”. I was the captain but few gave us any chance against our redoubtable opponents. Predictably we lost the first two “Tests”. But then my team rallied in superb fashion and we won the next three “Tests” at Nagpur, Gwalior and Meerut.

In the final “Test” I won all my three matches. Also memorable for me was my match against Japan's Kono in 1970. Kono was then ranked No. 2 in the world. He and I were involved, in a splendid match before I lost in five games. This performance gave me immense satisfaction. Another moment to cherish was our match against strong England in the Commonwealth Championships at Singapore in 1971. We led 4-1, only to lose 4-5. But I won two out of my three matches and had fine victories over Tony Clayton and Alan Haydes.

Nearer home, the feats that give me pleasurable memories are my winning the State title six times and Railways title eight times. But high among the list of achievements would rank my performance in this year's World Railway Championships in June. I had a couple of notable triumphs and was ranked third in the world amongst railway players.

In my long career, I have won many laurels and awards. But the one I treasure most are the Ajuna Award (I was among the recipients in 1972), the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association Award (the SK Gurunathan Trophy) for best State Sportsman of the Year in 1971 and the Railway Minister's Award in 1969.

I have never been one to hide my feelings. I always speak out my mind and I am ready to face the consequences. Because of this—and politics too—I was not ranked in 1971. Then in 1973, when I was playing really well (I had won 11 tournaments), I was not selected to represent the country in the World Championships, for some inexplicable reason. The outcry in the Press and the public was so vehement that I was not only included as a member of the team, but was named captain!

As told to PARTAB RAMCHAND

# The one-dayers through the wide angles

PATRICK EAGAR on the England – Pakistan highlights



**DID YOU SAY LAMB?** Allan Lamb pulls one away powerfully



**BOWLING BEAUTY** Imran Khan chuckles down another one



**REST DAY?** Mudassar Nazar looks to be resting after a dive proves fruitless. He was run out for 31



**INVASION** Zaheer is mobbed after his fifty as Taylor watches in frustration Majid appears to shun the invaders at the non-striker's end



**IN GLOVED HANDS** Ban points his leg to the heavens after catching opener Gower off Bakht for 17

# Day's quiz—who will open with Gavaskar?

Discussing India's problems regarding the opening of the innings, PARTAB RAMCHAND scans through the candidates

**J**UST think of the fantastic batting order" the excited cricket fan told me "Srikkanth at number two Patil at number five and Kapil at number eight We could score at a

rate faster than any side since the days of Bradman Ours could be the most attractive batting side in the world!"

Yes, we could It may involve a



C P S Chauhan - Tell Sunil he will miss me

couple of "ifs", doesn't fortune favour the brave. Didn't Patil and Kapil prove it in England?

I have always believed that there is too much theory in our cricket. We, in this country, have never really taken to heart the age old story of the coach and the little boy. The latter made a cross batted swipe with such timing that the ball raced to the boundary. The coach pulled up the lad. Look at the position of your legs. They are all wrong", he shouted. The boy's innocent response was "But, sir, look where the ball has gone".

Neville Cardus, once wrote an article entitled "when art triumphs over science". In it, he said that the scientific aspect of cricket was fine. It was correct and had to be obeyed. But you could not make an absolute rule of it. And players of immense talent and variable gifts—uncommonly sharp eyesight or remarkably fast footwork—could get away with strokes that were not in any coaching manual (Batham's reverse sweep is a fine example).

The story concerning the little boy and Cardus' shrewd analysis have repeatedly come back to my mind in the last six months or so. First by when I listened to comments on the batting of Srikkanth in the last series in India. Almost every time he hit a boundary with one of his original shots, the purists predicted disaster, warning everyone that he would never get away with that again and that he should be more careful.

This was the opinion of the Indian commentators. And what was the opinion of English writers and commentators? Just the reverse. Reading their articles in Magazines and hearing their comments over the radio, one found it hard to believe that the two sides were discussing the same batsman.

The English Press had a very high opinion of Srikkanth: his "super fast reflexes", his "quick eye" and "remarkable footwork". The manner in which he hooks so daringly—and without even a cap, let alone a helmet! They obviously see in him another Milburn.

Yes, maybe it was difficult to retain a specialist opening batsman who scored only 119 runs from six innings. But then for his replacement the selectors went to the other extreme, in keeping with our ridiculous obsession with theory. It is commendable to leave the ball alone which does not have to be touched. But then Prashant Roy is inclined to leave almost every ball alone—even the ones he can hit to the boundary. If this is the attitude, he may not get out. But now, will he ever score runs? A colleague in the Press Box insisted during the last Madras Test against England that Roy was certainly a good prospect for England. At any rate better than Srikkanth. The upshot was that this "technically

correct batsman" and a "good prospect for English conditions" could not even get into the Test side. That in itself speaks for his tour record. Now even the cynics, who had scoffed at the manner in which Srikanth batted, seem to agree that he could have fared better than Ruy. "At least, he could have got some boundaries by his uppish hooks, risky shots and edges over the slips."

In our country, if you will notice, men like Merchant, Manjrekar and Gavaskar have always been encouraged—and must deservedly so, for, I must hasten to admit, their correct technique. But then, originals like Mushtaq Ali and Kunderan—men who think there are some risks worth taking—are hardly encouraged and this, most undeservedly so. Mushtaq Ali, the "magical conjuror" played only 11 Tests in a 20 year period. Yet, in that time he scored two centuries and had a Test career average of nearly 33. Kunderan, who played only 18 Tests over a 10 year period, scored nearly 1000 runs, had two centuries to himself and roughly the same average as Mushtaq Ali's.

There seemed to be a welcome and fresh change in the selectors' outlook when a batsman like Engineer came in the same mould as Kunderan and Mushtaq Ali played as many as 10 Tests. And the selection of Srikanth raised exciting possibilities. But then again, theory seems to have failed precedence over originality.

Yes, it is true that the greatest opening pairs in the history of Test cricket—Hobbs and Sutcliffe, Horton and Washbrook, Lawry and Simpson—have been more or less of the correct and technical type. But then again, one can't make an absolute rule. Why in our own cricket, the finest opening pair of Merchant and Mushtaq Ali did differ from each other, as the immutable Ray Robinson once put it "as curry and rice and just as effective in combination".

And this holds good even when you come down to our other great pair of Gavaskar and Chauhan. Well, you certainly cannot class Chauhan in the 'correct classical or technical' mould. Some of his shots against Lalit Pascoe, Iniran and Botham would horrify the purists. But then, one has to gently point out to them that the two have shared 10 century stands for the first wicket.

Interestingly, on closer scrutiny I find that the averages of Mushtaq, Kunderan and Engineer are only a little lower than some 'classical or technically correct' players like Manjrekar, Borde and Sardesai. This proves that despite not being given proper encouragement, the unwritten dogma of original the strokeplayer has not been a failure or a risk as has been thought of Indian cricket. It is myth that has been exploded violently by men like Patil, Kapil and Srikanth and some other young batsmen of the future have it in them to break the myth wide open once

and for all.

In fact, just the other day I was speaking to Srikanth. I pointed out to him that with both Parkar and Roy having failed, he had another chance to regain his Test place. He had the talent, the gifts, the quick eye, the fast reflexes and all the strokes. All he had to do was to curb those sudden rushes of blood to his head and avoid indiscreet strokes. The 22 year old batsman, now sporting a beard, told me that he had given it a lot of thought and was concentrating on cutting out 'stupid and foolish' shots. The cricket season in Madras has just started and one has already seen a new Srikanth applying himself more judiciously to each and every delivery.

He has a real chance of staging a comeback because there is a Test against Sri Lanka at Madras in September and Srikanth, being familiar with their attack, can be counted upon to deal effectively—even in cavalier fashion—with them.



K K Srikanth looks the other way. The problem is that the selectors will do the same when it comes to choosing him.

If however for some reason or the other the selectors still feel uncomfortable about Srikanth, they need not look any further than that old reliable Delhi war horse—Chetan Pratap Singh Chauhan. Ever since Umrigar took over as the chairman of the selection committee, there has generally been a "don't look back" policy. There was a slight change in this policy in the early days of Umrigar as chairman of the committee. Chandrasekhar and Bedi were recalled for the England tour of 1979, but that has been about all. From then on it has generally been "age dhekho", (look forward). There has certainly been no comeback as far as I can recall, except Madan Lal who pushed his way in through sheer merit and by performances one just could not overlook.

Now I am all in favour of youth getting its chance. But when there is really not a single young person in the same class as the experienced player, surely the latter should be

called back. For evidence I offer the record of the England selectors. Over the years they have recalled old cricketers, and, more often than not, these players have vindicated the selectors' choice. English cricket history is full of such heart warming stories. At various stages men like Wilfred Rhodes, Cyril Washbrook, Ted Dexter, Brian Close, Tom Graveney and Colin Cowdrey have been recalled only to come off with flying colours. Yes, whichever way I the situation, it has to be either Srikanth or Chauhan as Gavaskar's opening partner in the coming season. There is absolutely no point in trying anyone else, because for all you know he may go the way of Parkar or Roy—a bad investment for the future.

And while on the subject of opening batsmen, one must protest against the manner in which Shastri was thrust into this specialist position. What a sorry state of affairs? You go to England with three spe-

cialist opening batsmen and by the second Test you have discarded two of them and pushed in a batsman whose legitimate position is number eight or nine. This yo-yo treatment of young batsmen has led to many players having been sacrificed in the past. Take Ashok Mankad as a prime example. He made his debut in the middle order, was pushed into the opening position because the situation was desperate and then demoted again when another batsman was found to partner Gavaskar. His career virtually ground to a halt quite like, as Bedi warned in an interview, that "Shastri's career is being ruined". Gavaskar himself admitted at the end of the series that, "Shastri was too valuable a player lower down to go in opening". Let Shastri stay at number eight from where he can play a valuable part in bolstering the innings. Chauhan's words have come true "tell Sunil he will miss me in England". Didn't you, skipper?

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# I should have got more chances

T. E. Srinivasan, who toured Australia and New Zealand in 1980-81, talks to PARTAB RAMCHAND and feels that the reason why he was not given more opportunities was because he refused to be anybody's 'chamcha' in the Indian cricket hierarchy.

**SPORTSWORLD.** In the last five years you have been acknowledged as one of the leading stroke-players in the country. How do you account for the fact that you have played in only one Test?

**T. E. SRINIVASAN.** I feel that I should have got more chances. But then a lot of things are involved in Indian cricket other than cricket itself. I am sure people know about this but nothing can be done. That is the pity.

**SW.** What exactly do you mean that a lot of things are involved in our

cricket other than cricket? can you elaborate this point?

**T. E. S.** Certain Test cricketers who do not deserve a chance are given more than their due shares. Regionalism is still unfortunately the bane of Indian cricket. Secularism in sports is a dangerous thing and is destroying the game. People used to say that this sort of thing was rampant in earlier days. But it is still prevalent even today. For example, when the entire team in New Zealand last year was playing in a district match, Bharat Reddy and I were

sent to play in some Prime Minister's benefit game, which was of the standard played by ladies.

**SW.** Can you give specific instances of the raw deal you have received?

**T. E. S.** For example, for the South Zone match against Pakistan in January 1980 I was not picked for some inexplicable reason. Then at the last moment Vishwanath dropped himself and I was included. I got a hundred. Now if the South Zone selectors do not show confidence in me, how does one expect the national selectors to pick me? Still, I have



T. E. Srinivasan hooks Iqbal Qasim and Taslim Arif look on



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got runs at the highest level at home, in the Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, Deodhar Trophy and against visiting teams and yet, repeatedly I found myself being passed over. I had been on trial for so many years before being finally picked for the tour of Australia and New Zealand, while many others who do not deserve a place, have found places in the national side all too quickly.

SW: Tell us something about that tour.

T E S: I was happy at being selected, of course, and I must say that I enjoyed the tour. But cricket-wise I have a lot of reservations. I was picked essentially for one-day matches since my record in these in India was excellent. But soon I found that besides getting only the odd first class game, I was not even being picked for one day games. Binnv and

### Certain Test cricketers who do not deserve a chance are given more than their due shares.

Chauhan opened more often with Gavaskar and even Kirti Azad played more such games than me. There were some 16 one-day matches on that tour and I was played in only six. In three of them I got past the half century mark. I did not play a single one day game in New Zealand. Even in the first-class games I did not fail. I got many thirties. The tour figures will bear me out for my record is better than Vishwanath, Binnv, Kirmani, Kapil Dev and Azad. This, despite the fact that I hardly had any opportunities. It seemed like I had to get hundreds and double centuries to get into the Indian team. If I failed once, I was immediately dropped. Others who failed were persevered with.

Take the New Zealand leg of the tour as another instance. In the opening game I got 90 after facing the new ball. Azad got a 100 lower down and he was selected for the first Test. If they could not dislodge the Gavaskar-Chauhan pairing, they could at least have tried me out in the middle order. When a middle order batsman can be tried out as an opener, as Shastri was tried out recently on the England tour, why can't an opening batsman be tried out in the middle order?

SW: But you finally got a chance in the last Test in the middle order, didn't you?

T E S: That's after they had tried everyone. Azad was played, then Yograj. Some other players seemed tired of the cricket as this was the lag end of a tiring tour. So Yashpal was dropped and I was accommodated. I batted well at number six and scored 29 and then was out to a highly doubtful caught-behind decision. In the second innings I was

asked to go in at number three and on a difficult wicket stayed for 100 minutes and got 19.

SW: While on the subject of batting order, how come you were taken as opening batsman? You were essentially a middle order bat.

T E S: I agreed to open the batting because I saw there was no other way to get into the Indian team. The middle order was already packed. When they did not select Surinder Amarnath, who got 250 in the India Trophy match, I knew it was pointless to try for a place in the middle order.

SW: How was your relationship with Gavaskar?

T E S: He was good to me. He talked to me, encouraged me. We got along very well.

SW: You matured late. You never really got into reckoning for a Test place till you were in your late twenties and you finally made the grade when you were 30. Do you think the age factor could have limited your opportunities?

T E S: I have always believed that you have to pick the best man for the job whatever his age—provided he is fit enough. Age is nothing. Fitness is everything. Let me give you an example. Venkataraghavan is 37 but he is still fitter than most of the younger members of the current squad. Now he is still by far the best off spinner in the land and should have walked into the touring team for England. The same is the case with Chauhan. A 40-year old man who is fit should gain preference over a 20 year-old man who is not fit. Age should not count at all.



T E Srinivasan

SW: But if you will notice, the accent has been on youth ever since Umrigar took over as chairman of the selection committee.

T E S: The accent should be on good blood, not just young blood. If the older man is better than the younger man then the former should be taken. If they want to concentrate only on youth, then let them select

the under 22 team for a tour. We are carrying this inclination towards youth too far and in the process giving a lot of youngsters a chance, men who don't deserve to get in in the first place and men who are not physically fit.

SW: But they have these fitness camps before tours. What about them?

T E S: These camps are a waste. The duration is too short. Physical weaknesses cannot be fully covered. For example I know that those who are not fast enough stand in the slips and those with slow reflexes stand in the outfield.

SW: I have heard other cricketers tell me "Srinivasan's greatest enemy is Srinivasan himself." He is proud, arrogant, thinks he is the greatest. That's why despite his talent and natural gifts he can never come up. How do you refute this charge?

### I am not proud or arrogant and I do not think that I am the greatest.

T E S: Simply by saying that I have no "headweight" I am not proud or arrogant and I do not think that I am the greatest. The moment you think that you are the greatest you will stop practising, but I still practise, exercise, do my running for three hours every day.

Yes I have heard some people say that I am not friendly. But if by friendly they mean being a "chamcha" then I certainly am not friendly. Perhaps, if you want to come up in Indian cricket, you have to be a 'chamcha' to the higher-ups. This I have never done and will never do. Maybe that is one of the reasons. That has restricted my opportunities. In fact, besides feeling that I should have got more chances, I also believe that I should have been selected earlier than when I actually was. I have never fought against anyone, there have been no hard feelings and I have generally behaved well. But then in Indian cricket, you need a godfather and I don't have one.

SW: What about the story that when you reached Australia you told somebody to go and "tell Dennis (Laljee) 'T E' is here"?

T E S: I don't know how that story is being attributed to me. Actually it was Chetan (Chauhan) who said that and, in fact, a couple of Australian papers gave wide publicity to it. This just proves my point that there are people out to malign me.

SW: What are your plans now?

T E S: Well I was on trial for so many years before I was selected. And now it looks like I am on a second trial—to fight my way back into the team. I will continue to try and make as many runs as I can in the domestic cricket and see if I can come back.

# The Italian Odyssey

DEREK O'BRIEN reviews the progress of this year's champions, Italy, from Montevideo to Madrid in the 52-year history of the World Cup.

It is in the fitness of things that Italy has the shape of a boot. The land of Garibaldi and Mussolini boasts of a football history which probably only Brazil can equal. Their enigmatic story in the eleven of the twelve World Cups played so far echoes the words of Rudyard Kipling to "meet with triumph and disaster and treat both those imposters just the same."

After much deliberation the World Cup, fathered by the Frenchmen Jules Rimet and Henri Delaunay, was born in 1930. Italy along with Sweden, Spain and Holland did not like the idea of the competition being staged in faraway Montevideo, Uruguay, and boycotted the tournament which finally, the hosts won. It was not a good start by Italy, if one can call it a start.

Four years later Italy made its debut in the world's premier football tournament and, what is more, played host to the sixteen nations that took part. This time Uruguay, the holders, reciprocated by staying away. Italy had a remarkable team manager in Vittorio Pozzo, the man who was to do so much for Italian football. He drew from the martial fascist spirit of the times the authority and inspiration to build a fine team.

In their first match they erupted in true Vesuvius fashion with a powerful defence and a clever attack to destroy the United States of America by seven goals to one. The Italians then took on the Spaniards in the second round. But here they came up against an outstanding display by the Spanish goalkeeper Zamora and were held in a one-all draw. Zamora missed the replay because he had been roughed up in the previous game but then, Italy were without four of their regulars. The Italians scraped home thanks to a corner kick by Meazza, one of the most talented footballers Italy has ever produced, which Orsi headed in. In the semi-finals Italy faced Austria, once the *wunderteam*, but now past its best. A well rehearsed move from a corner saw Guaita find the Austrian net and Italy had entered the final on their maiden appearance, where they took on Czechoslovakia. The pressure of the final had de-

trimental side effects and the football played did neither side proud. The Italians were a goal down twenty minutes from the end and the Czechs should have been two up, but were deprived by missing a simple chance and later hitting the post. Then a brilliant solo run climaxed by a viciously swerving shot executed by Orsi restored parity. Was the shot a fluke or a feat of brilliance? The next day Orsi attempted many times to repeat the shot for the benefit of the Press, facing an empty goal, but failed. The match was decided in extra time when a tired Schiavio beat the Czech custodian with what the scorer later termed 'the strength of desperation' and Italy were World champions!

The 1938 tournament set the trend for a combination of home ground frenzied supporters and timid referees which were to give future host nations an advantage in the competition. Nevertheless, the Italians must be given full credit for their fitness and single-mindedness.

Four years later the scene shifted to France. The World champions, who according to Pozzo, were even stronger than they had been in 1930, had to exert every sinew to get past gallant Norway in the first round (2-1), and that too in extra time. It was the Italian goalkeeper Olivieri who stood between his team and defeat. The Italians then met the hosts France in the second round and with Piola doing a great job in mid-field and scoring two goals, the Italians crossed home 3-1.

Brazil from whom much was expected, were their opponents in a semi-final of frayed tempers, which Pozzo's boys won by the odd goal in three, including a penalty in their favour. Then on to the final Italy Vs Hungary. The Hungarians could not stem the Italian tide and the World Cup was Italy's for the second year in succession as their speed and energy outplayed the Hungarian's grace and precision to win 4-2. The next year the World was plunged into War and the Cup was to remain in Rome till 1950.

The hills of Brazil were the stage for the fourth World Cup, now known as the Jules Rimet trophy. Only a few months before, in one of

the most tragic accidents in sporting history, the entire talented Torino team, comprising mainly national players, was killed in a plane crash while returning home from a friendly match. The Superga air disaster had appalling repercussions.

It was at that stage that Ferruccio Novo took over the reins from the legendary Pozzo and the Italians now participated in a tournament, for the first time played on a league-cum-knockout basis. Managerial and selection rows had got the better of Italian football. Nevertheless, the Italian captain Carapallesi put the defending champions ahead in their opening match against Sweden. The latter however had 'Swede' revenge and finally edged past the champions 2-1. In their next match Italy put it across. Paraguay liv two clear goals. Earlier however, Sweden, the pranksters, were through to the final round (only one team qualifying from each group) as they played out a two all draw against the South Americans. The Italians were out, and superstitious of air travel, began their long, sad sea voyage back home.

Next stop Switzerland, the land of chocolates and cuckoo clocks. The year 1954. This time the quarter finals were to be played after completion of the pool matches and the Magical Magicians were firm favourites to wrest the trophy from Uruguay.

The Italian team had the incompetent Lajos Czervler as their manager. They were drawn in Pool IV along with England, Switzerland and Belgium. The vicissitudes of Italian football were best demonstrated at Lausanne where they met the Swiss. Irratic refereeing by Brazil's Viana led to pandemonium and the Italians were unlucky losers of this crucial tie. "An English or Scottish referee", wrote a French critic, "would have given two or three penalties in the first half against the Swiss, and would have sent two Italian hacks off in the second. But there it was, a plethora of fouls had had the last word and it was against Italy."

The Italians under the new rules did not have to play England, the other seeded team in their group. However, in their last pool encounter they beat a tired Belgian 4-1 and earned a play-off against Switzerland who had lost to a mediocre English team 2-0. The Italians were the favourites, but never looked the part as the Swiss swamped them. The 4-1 loss prompted a well known Italian daily to write, "The loss in 1952 was not a defeat, it was disaster. We left the stadium in a state of authentic prostration, unable to look the Swiss in the face."

Brian Glanville best sums up the World Cup played in Sweden in 1958. He writes "It was notable for the emergence of 4-2-4, the explosion of Pele, the first victory of Brazil, the

surprise of France and Fontaine" and, one may add, the disappearance of Italy from the top rungs of the ladder of international football. While Garrincha, Pele and Santos dazzled the crowds, the Cup winners of 1934 and 1938 had to stay at home; they had failed to qualify from the 53 teams vying for the sixteen places in the final round.

**I**N 1962 the competition moved back to South America, this time to Chile. The pool qualifying system took into account goal average. Italian football had not yet recovered from the decline of the Fifties and at the same time were in the chains of *catenaccio* but they made it to Chile where their first match was against the hosts at Santiago. It was more of a brawl than a match with vicious fouls which reduced the Europeans to nine men. Chile duly scored two late goals. Italy's next match was against the tough Germans. In a match of defences neither side scored. The Germans, however, made it to the quarter-finals along with Chile whom they overcame 2-0. Italy's early 3-0 win over Switzerland was inconsequential.

John Bull played host to the 1966 tournament which saw Italian football sink further into the doldrums. The blue shirts opened their campaign against Chile, reduced to ten men for greater part of the second-half. An over-cautious Italy won a dull encounter 2-0. But that was to be the first and last win for the Italians. Faulty selection caused the side to fall apart against a hard Russian team who won through a fine second-half goal. But the Italian cup of woe was not yet full. In their final group match they were shocked and humiliated by debutants North Korea 1-0. The Italian giant was flattened and out cold in the cellar of international football.

Altitude and heat were the two biggest problems teams faced in the 1970 tournament in Mexico. Italy pinned all their hopes on Luigi Riva's lethal left foot to pound home the goals. In their opening game against Sweden after an early goal by Domenghini they back-pedalled into defence, satisfied with that 1-0 victory. Obsessed with fear of defeat and *catenaccio*, they played two dreary draws against Israel and former champions Uruguay—Riva had not scored at all proving that a shooting star cannot shine on his own.

In the quarter-finals Italy faced Mexico. Mexico shot into an early lead. How often in the past had the Italians succumbed to a home team? However, the great individual skills of the Italians were allowed free play and they swept past Mexico with two goals by Riva and one each by Domenghini and Rivera.

West Germany who had come through the quarter-finals after a grim struggle against England faced Italy in the semi-finals. Italy shot

into an early lead and then held out against a German blitzkrieg only to succumb to the equaliser in the dying minutes of the match. Extra time was a thriller. A defensive blunder allowed Germany to draw first blood through the great Gerd Müller but Italy soon restored parity. Then Riva swivelled in drive home and Italy were ahead. The Germans were far from finished. A corner was nodded across the goal for Müller to head in the equaliser. Finally the Italians got one last goal and were through. It had been a long and hard journey from 1938.

In the finals against mighty Brazil Italy reverted to negative football. After neutralising Brazil's opening goal they folded up and succumbed 4-1.

1974 was the World Cup of 'Total Football' played in West Germany. Italy went into the final rounds as one of the favourites, the unbeatable



Enzo Bearzot

Dino Zoff in goal, Riva to score and Rivera to scheme. Liony has been so much a part of Italy's World Cup story. In their opening match against unknown Haiti the Italians were shocked when Zoff conceded a goal. However, they rallied to brush aside the debutants.

Italy's next encounter was against Argentina. The Italian manager Valcareggi made some unpardonable mistakes regarding the selection of the team and the Italians were lucky to draw 1-1. As such, Italy had to draw with Poland to stay in, the Poles beat them easily and once again Italy returned home frustrated.

In 1978 the World Cup crossed the Atlantic for the gauchos to see the tournament final in Buenos Aires. As Webber and Rice were working out the chords for 'Don't cry for me Argentina' Enzo Bearzot, the new Italian manager, was getting his team

ready for the Argentine campaign. Amid controversy, Italy were drawn in a pool along with Argentina, France and Hungary.

Within a few seconds after the match began against France, the Italians found themselves a goal down. A familiar situation but—the words of Dino Zoff—"We wanted to show them we weren't the imbeciles they took us for". It did not take long for Bearzot's men to prove their point. Paolo Rossi and Roberto Bettaga were in superb form and the score after the long whistle was Italy 2 France 1.

In the second of three pool matches the Italians made sure of qualifying by scoring twice without reply against Hungary. Thus the last on counter against the hosts would only decide who would top the group. The match got underway with the home crowd at their vociferous best and Abraham Klein, the little Israeli referee did well to keep things under control. Kempes and Passarella attempted a blockbuster each at goal only to find the evergreen Dino Zoff in the way. Bettaga silenced the home crowd 23 minutes from the end when he scored after a neat bout of passing with Rossi and Italy were in the first of the two groups of the final round in the company of the Dutch, the West Germans and the Austrians.

With the Germans bombing the Berlin Wall in Buenos Aires and the Italians missing many a good chance, their meeting in the opening match of the final round ended blank. Italy were a tired bunch when they took on the Austrians in a subsequent tie and were lucky that their questionable tackles were overlooked by the Belgian referee. However, the match winner scored by the Italians was a beauty. Paolo Rossi after dribbling past a host of Austrian defenders found Koncinski, who made no mistake.

Italy were assured of a place in the semi-final even before they took on the Dutch in the last match of Group A. Unlike most of their other encounters it was the Italians who drew first blood, thanks to a set goal by Emy Brandts. The Dutch pulled themselves together and scored twice in the second half to enter the final.

The Italians met Brazil in the play-off for third place and Causio's goal was the only one they scored in reply to two by the Brazilians. Fourth place was all the Italians got, but one must not forget that they were the only team to beat Argentina, the eventual winners of the competition.

The Italian success story at Madrid is too well known to bear repetition. However, one might add, that this peninsula which has a proud tradition dating from the days of the Roman Empire now has football as the most popular of its delicacies, after, of course, the pizza and Gino Lollobrigida.



# Tennis rivalry of the Eighties

John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl are the men to watch, says RAHUL JACOB

IVAN LENDL and John McEnroe both had a meteoric rise to the top of tennis. McEnroe, perhaps, more so. At Wimbledon 1977, McEnroe shot to fame from an unknown qualifier to a surprise semi-finalist. The then 19-year-old McEnroe lost a tense four-setter to Jimmy Connors. A week later, he lost to—hold your breath—Anand Amritraj at Newport. Inconsistent he may be, but McEnroe has always been a comer. By the end of 1978 McEnroe was really climbing. At Wimbledon 1979, he was seeded second but was upset by Tim Gullikson. At the US Open that year, McEnroe was a convincing winner. He destroyed Jimmy Connors in straight sets, avenging a humiliating defeat by Connors the previous year. The final was a battle of New Yorkers. McEnroe played close to aggressive tennis to come out on top over Gerulaitis in three close sets. In 1980, McEnroe downed Connors at Wimbledon in the most acrimonious match ever witnessed. In fact, it was described as the closest the two men had come to having fistbuffs on the hallowed turf of the Centre Court. In what has been labelled the best final in Wimbledon's 105 years, McEnroe came a cropper in that glorious five-setter (saving 7 match points) by 6-1, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-8. At the US Open that year he paid Borg back in the same coin in an even longer five-setter. Last year, McEnroe was the undisputed world No. 1 beating Borg decisively in two four-setters in the finals at Wimbledon and Flushing Meadows.

Lendl made a very fast rise to the top echelons of the computer rankings. At the end of 1978, he was the world's top junior. At the end of 1979, he was ranked 20th. By the beginning of 1981, Lendl was in the vicinity of the *numero uno* position. And that was when the rumblings started, the tom-toms were beating to herald a new battle for the throne of men's tennis. Just after Wimbledon last year, Lendl stunned McEnroe by clubbing him in three long sets in the Davis Cup quarter-finals between USA and Czechoslovakia. And that heart-ickening loss was in

New York in front of McEnroe's home crowd. At the US Open, everybody was looking forward to the anticipated McEnroe-Lendl semi-final, but an inspired Vitas Gerulaitis had other ideas. Gerulaitis put Lendl out in a thrilling pre-quarter final five-setter. Lendl was not unduly perturbed (Vijay says that one of Lendl's principal assets is his immense self-confidence). Lendl went on a rampage on the circuit after the US Open. In one five-week stretch, he won five straight Volvo Grand Prix tournaments—an achievement unprecedented in the Grand Prix history. That streak was broken when Lendl came to Calcutta to play that unforgettable Classic Event.

After that brief respite the rain-pause resumed. In January, at the Volvo Masters, it was time for another McEnroe-Lendl clash. Once again Lendl was the master, McEnroe's weak approach shots being punished severely by Lendl's devastating forehand passing shots. McEnroe was crushed in front of a large Madison Square Garden crowd, 6-4, 6-2. Following the Masters, Lendl's relentless march continued. Opponents were steamrolled ruthlessly. Till the final at La Quinta Lendl had won an incredible 44 consecutive matches since that loss to Gerulaitis at Flushing Meadow. France's Yannick Noah (winner of the Calcutta Grand Prix in 1978) stopped him by 2 sets to 1.

Lendl's aura of invincibility received another blow at Monte Carlo. A rejuvenated Guillermo Vilas, making a welcome return to form, trounced Lendl 6-1, 7-6, 6-3. Then at Madrid he came from behind to beat Lendl 6-7, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-3. Both these victories were in clay. This means that Lendl's claims to the world's premier clay court event—the French Open—will meet with stiff opposition. At the WCT Masters in Dallas, Lendl beat his good friend, mentor and business adviser Wojtek Fibak in the quarters. In the semis, Lendl blew Vijay Amritraj off court 6-0, 6-1, 7-5. Amritraj later commented that he had never played anyone who hit so hard since Rod Laver.

As he good naturedly put it, "I'm happy to have got out of there alive." (Vijay got his revenge when he became the 3rd player to beat Lendl in 4 months. He surprised Lendl 7-6, 3-6, 7-5 in Tokyo.) The irony is that McEnroe has also been compared to Laver, though for a different reason—his rich stroke repertoire. Said the legendary Laver deprecatingly, "I'm honoured to be compared to him (McEnroe)." In the finals, Lendl took McEnroe in four sets.

As usual, Ivan's passing shots and strong serve battered McEnroe into submission. Earlier McEnroe had said, "If he thinks that he is number one, he is very wrong." This time he had to admit that Lendl was the superior player on that day. The week after Dallas, Lendl cracked the million-dollar mark in just four months.

Having read accounts of Lendl's string of successes against his American rival, one might be filled with cynicism as to the prospects of this so-called 'rivalry of the 80's'. Yet we must keep in mind that in the last four months McEnroe has been going through a lean spell. His ankle was injured in March just after the Davis Cup tie against India. McEnroe may be down, but he is not out; this fiery American is a fighter, not a quitter. When his confidence returns, he will be back with a vengeance to teach Lendl a thing or two. When McEnroe gets the measure of Lendl's passing shots (as he did Borg's) the fireworks will really begin.

On the other hand, McEnroe is a natural volleyer. He likes to attack and get to the net at the earliest opportunity. McEnroe's touch is surely his timing exquisite. His "groundies" are innovative; his drop volleys played with a featherlike touch. His serve is the best in the game. McEnroe never practises, he doesn't need to; he has talent in abundance.

Yet it is difficult to perceive what might happen in the future. These two, the hopes of tennis, could succumb to injury. (Tony Roche was all set to give Laver a stiff opposition in the late 60's, when tragically his elbow packed up and the castles crumbled.) Or they could become victims of the dreaded disease—Tennis Brain—as diagnosed by Mike Lupica. According to Lupica, "Tennis Brain" is the latest sad affliction to suffer from after "Tennis Elbow" and "Tennis Groin".

One thing is certain, the Lendl-McEnroe matches on grass and clay will be one-sided. But on Deco Turf II and indoor surfaces, (Supreme carpet) then encounters should keep tennis aficionados on the edge of their seats for years to come. McEnroe and Lendl: Fire and Ice. "The rivalry of the 80's." Yes, this could be a Battle Royal. May the best man win.



FOREST HI



# MOHUN BAGAN From climax to catastrophe

What has really gone wrong with the side that, only three months ago, lifted the Federation Cup in style? DEREK O'BRIEN investigates

**M**INUTES before the start of one of their matches in the 82nd Calcutta League, avid Mohun Bagan supporters in the northern stands hoisted on a makeshift apparatus a massive maroon and green flag. Ironically, the frailty of the setup caused the flag to slip down unintentionally to halfmast for the greater part of the match in question. Although it was not apparent, the

intention might perhaps have been to mourn for the pathetic display of their favourite team. It was hard to believe that this was last year's League runners up and the present holders of the prestigious Federation Cup.

What has gone wrong with a team which till only a few months ago, had established itself as the top football side in the country? Mohun Bagan

had started brilliantly in the Stafford and Federation Cup tournaments, only to stumble embarrassingly in the Calcutta Senior League. There are many reasons why the sudden, surprising slump took place. Indeed, many an 'adda' has ended in a brawl while fans have attempted to analyse what precisely is the actual cause for the humiliation of Mohun Bagan.



The beginning of the end: East Bengal fans exit after their team scored against Mohun Bagan

TAPAN DAS

One must actually be allowed to back-pedal on the wheels of time and take the reader back to March 1982, at which time the Calcutta football transfer season was in full swing. On paper, certainly, Mohun Bagan came out with the strongest side, a perfect blend of mellow vintage wine and bubbling champagne. The prized trio of Indian football, Bidesh Bose, Manas Bhattacharya, and Prasun Banerjee put away the black and white shirts of rivals Mohammedan Sporting into mothballs and decided to sign for Mohun Bagan instead.

These three players, along with Atanu Bhattacharya, Compton Dutta, Samar Bhattacharya, Shyamal Banerjee, Sudip Chatterjee, Xavier Pius, Biswajit Bose and in the later stages, Francis D'Souza all had to answer the call of national duty. To be sure, India benefitted, but the popular Calcutta club came out the relative losers in the deal.

Nevertheless, it is said that the eleven players who donned national colours to join the Asian Games camp received about Rs 30,000 each to sign up for Mohun Bagan. It was, in a sense, easy money for them, considering that the only chance they will have of assisting their side will be in the two tournaments after the Asiad.

Why then did Mohun Bagan sign on these players and cough up over Rs three lakhs in the process? Admittedly, they need the assistance of these national players in the post-Asiad tournaments, but is it worth the price that the club is paying? It is certainly excellent for the prestige of a particular club to have some of its players included in the national squad — an added bonus, in these days of high-powered advertising — but surely the money could have been put to better use than merely buying a national eleven.

The Mohun Bagan officials in the football transfer market — Haru Mondal, Kashi Mondal, and the football secretary Ajit Dutta — undoubtedly did a great job in securing the services of so many top flight players. However, it would perhaps not be out of place to mention that they lacked foresight when it came to looking for players who would be at hand the whole time and who would actually assist the club in the search for top soccer honours. And is there any guarantee that these same stars will not sign up for a different club the next season?

The overall result is a team that possesses only three players to fill that position so vital to modern football — that of the linkman Prasun, of course, was to be away at the camps, leaving Bikash Panji, Sujas Bera, and Gautam Sarkar to play nearly forty matches from the Stafford Cup to the IFA Shield. I firmly believed that these three medios would do the job between themselves. It is very unfortunate that



Bagan's Subrata Bhattacharya in action—complacency personified

Panji and Bera both injured their knees in the early stages of the League. Besides Gautam is still recovering from an ankle injury which he sustained at Kozhikode. A charming and soft spoken Shankar Banerjee, coach of the Mohun Bagan side since 1980, said after a strenuous morning workout at the club ground. In this regard, Banerjee had been optimistic but it would have been good insurance if his team had acquired a few more mid field players of repute.

By far the most serious problem faced by Mohun Bagan this season has been that of injuries to leading players. It is said that this is one of the recurring nightmares for coaches the world over and in this respect the coaches on the Calcutta maidan are no exception. No coach or manager likes to hear that a leading player — or any player, for that matter — is injured and will not take the field for a particular encounter. Apart from affecting the composition of the side in question, it also sometimes has an adverse effect on the remaining players who are forced to function without a vital link in the chain. It does not matter if there are several players of the same calibre to replace an injured player for whether a coach will admit it or not, injuries have a psychological effect on teams as a whole.

As Shankar Banerjee so rightly says 'I never believed that we could be so severely set back by injuries. Every team does have its fitness problems, with one or two players always on the injured list. However,

this year, we have suffered rather rudely at the hands of fate. My injury list grows longer with each passing match. As it stands right now, none of my linkmen is one hundred per cent fit. The situation in the forward line is no better. Surajit's old knee injury has cropped up once again. Ulaganathan has followed suit, and to make matters worse, the promising Denis Williamson has pulled a hamstring. Our captain, Shyam, has been running a temperature periodically. As even the casual observer can see, we are really having a run of bad luck.'

There is, however, another side to the story. It is best explained by respected orthopaedic surgeon — a specialist in sports injuries — Dr Kalyan Mukherjee, who treats most of the players from the glamour team, 'Our footballers do not go about their training in a proper scientific manner and this is the primary reason why they sustain so many injuries. If they followed this simple principle, it would automatically follow that they would become less injury prone.' Surely, the doctor has a point.

Calcutta's soccer players are generally well conditioned as they put in hours of practice. It automatically follows that they should not be so prone to injury as they are. What could be the chief reason for this state of affairs? In the words of Dr Mukherjee 'The players are not entirely to blame. The reason is simple. They are treated like machines.'

Says Dr Mukherjee, 'I should not be surprised if a Gautam Sarkar or a Surajit Sengupta is called upon to

सुरजित सेंगुप्ता  
SUJIT SENGUPTA  
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA





play fifty matches a season. This is just too much, for no player can be asked to give so much for his side, no matter how bad the situation is. This is precisely what has happened to Mohun Bagan this season. They have had far too much soccer, a surfeit of the game, and this is the logical price they have to pay for it. This is why they now find themselves in what is literally a back to the wall position with regard to the Calcutta League.

At a standstill, one cannot help but sympathise with Shyam Thapa's plea. In my has indeed taken a heavy toll, decimating the forward line and crippling the midfielders as well.

The only section of the team that seems to have escaped clear of the ravages of barren bones and pained muscles is the inept defence. There is no denying that this was a colossal disappointment to the Mohun Bagan coach admitted.

Undoubtedly, Satyaji Ghosh and Kishore Babu have been overworked. The latter is no use to any team unless he has the ability to adapt himself to the needs of a situation at present, only Shyam Thapa's Satyaji Ghosh can make it right to the top very soon if he maintains his form. Gouranga Banerjee after a very good season with Mohammedan Sporting last year, has failed to recapture the form that was expected of him. His play has not been consistent and he is essentially a one-trick player. One could not expect too much from the youngsters Samir and Swapnil Saha Ray. As such, it is left to Subrata Bhattacharya to take charge of proceedings.

The latter bears an increasingly heavy responsibility on his shoulders this year and his attitude and position are prime reasons for the disappointing form of the glamour team of the Calcutta League. He is calm, collected, personified. Over the years, he has done yeoman service for the club and has on many an occasion played with a touch to keep the Mohun Bagan flag flying. However, he has not won many friends this year. For his laid-back attitude, for his practice sessions he rarely shows any extraordinary position of play, and his assistance in playing as a defender. His calm attitude does not work in his favour.

When it comes to the defence behind the Subrata forward, he held the key to the club's defence against East Bengal. Yet players and officials alike agreed that he did not deliver the goods needed for the crucial game for Mohun Bagan. It was one of those rare occasions when the talented Subrata could hardly.

Indeed, before the encounter, Subrata is reported to have said "If we lose this match, I will give up football." By making such a statement he left himself open to a great deal of criticism and also put addi-

tional pressure on himself and the other youngsters in the side. Nevertheless, one is confident that better sense will prevail and that Subrata will soon put all this behind him and bring Mohun Bagan glamour, garlands and glory.

The match that really upset the Mohun Bagan applicant was their solitary goal defeat against traditional rivals, East Bengal. "We went into the match with the idea of playing for a win, as we knew that such a result would determine the fate of the League." The rest, of course, is history.

Shyam Thapa, the Mohun Bagan skipper admitted "East Bengal were the better side, they were far more balanced. We had played very badly



Training session in progress at the Bagan ground

in the buildup games and our dependable stopper Subrata had an off day just when we needed him most. This best sums up the encounter that must surely have given the Mohun Bagan fans nightmares.

After the match, there was pandemonium inside the Mohun Bagan tent. There were screams of "Subrata ke mere phalo" (kill Subrata) and some of the senior players had to come to pacify the crowd. In the words of Subrata, the crowd "has a very short memory." True, the fans should have been a little more rational in their approach to the situation, but then, this rarely happens. And it was strange to see Subrata, who has been worshipped by

the crowds on the maiden for so long, at the wrong end of the stick.

Another mystery after the East Bengal Mohun Bagan encounter was the disappearance of the club's football secretary, Mr. Anil Dutta. Shyam Thapa did not pull his punches when he said "The confidence of our team was completely shattered after that defeat and there was gloom all round the tent. We needed someone to boost our confidence and the man who should have done that was the football secretary. Unfortunately, he did not come back to the tent after we returned from the Eden Gardens for fear of being manhandled. How can a football secretary carry on in such a manner?" In all fairness, Mr. Dutta should indeed have been on hand.

In fact, criticism of the club's football secretary is not confined to the players alone. This could lead one to conclude that the only thing common to the Bagan players is their attitude to Mr. Dutta. In the words of Shyam Thapa, "Mr. Dutta holds an important job and as such cannot devote much time to the club. He is not fit for the post of football secretary as we hardly ever see him. During morning training sessions, he is certainly conspicuous by his absence. A player who prefers not to be named says: 'It is not our custom to give a new pair of shorts or a pair of stockings before a match, but now Mr. Dutta does not bother to sanction our requirements.'"

Coach Shaokan Banerjee was righteously asked about the relationship between the players and the football secretary. One of his comments, though, bears relevance. "There is no relationship. Both Banerjee and Thapa are easygoing by nature and bear no malice towards Mr. Dutta. Their techniques reflect the mood of the team as a whole towards a man who holds a crucial position in the football affairs of the club."

Mr. Anil Dutta's term comes to an end in 1983 but one must give the man credit for the fact that he is aware he has too much to handle. He is the Shift Control Engineer of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation's southern generating station and also is the head of his family's petrol business.

When I met him outside the club tent, he said "When Mr. Dhiren Dey asked me to file my nomination papers, I was in a position to spare some time and this is precisely what I did after I was elected. In fact, I went personally to the houses of Panji and Bera to ask them to sign for Mohun Bagan. I also went to Kozikhade with the team for the Federation Cup." Mr. Dutta recently received a promotion and a five-year extension in CESC and as he says, "I now have little time to spare. I am an engineering man and have to go to



work early and this is the primary reason why I cannot be on hand for morning training sessions."

At this stage it must be mentioned that the football secretary does come to the tent in the evenings, when he spends time with the players. "I am aware that I have been the target of some criticism for some time, on the grounds that I do not devote much time to affairs of the club. Actually, the pressure of my job is very great and I am seriously contemplating resigning from my club post before the completion of my term. I have the interest of the club at heart and that is why I might soon take this drastic step. This will ensure that a person with plenty of time on hand can take over from me."

Mohun Bagan will have to revitalise their organisational setup if they wish to bring home more trophies to the hallowed portals of their tent. They have in Mr Saiten Manna, their assistant football secretary, a magnetic personality, an experienced footballer himself and a perfect gentleman. Mr Manna declined to answer questions. "Whenever I speak the Press misquotes me, so I have decided that I am going to keep my mouth shut," he said. "Mannada" as he is affectionately known to his friends and fans, does not really need to speak for he lets his work do the talking for him.

"The confidence which we had lost after our draw with Railway FC and our loss to East Bengal is in the process of being restored by Mannada," explained the Mohun Bagan skipper. Thapa is quite right and the influence of Mr Manna on the players has to be seen to be believed. This is the main reason why there is still hope that they can improve their position in the Calcutta League and find their lost touch in the IFA Shield tournament that will follow. Perhaps the clearest manifestation of this new spirit is the 5-0 scoresheet that Mohun Bagan returned in their match against Behala Youth on Tuesday 27 July.

While on the subject of training, it would not be out of place to mention another point. During these sessions, the two senior players, Shyam and Surajit assist their coach, and on occasion Gautam and Subrata also chip in. This in itself is a good policy but it could, in the long run, have unforeseen effects. The present team comprises a few very senior players, like the four already mentioned, and except for one or two others, is largely built up of very young members. There is, one could say, something of a "generation gap". What one is trying to drive home is the fact that the lesser lights, instead of gaining in confidence, are overawed in the matches when they are in the company of their elders. The Bagan juniors try then level best not to commit mistakes, and in their over-anxiety,

make blunders. If the younger players pursued their natural game and tried less hard to be perfect, the Mohun Bagan machine would certainly move more smoothly.

The biggest offender in the present League appears to be Amitava Mukherjee, despite his hat-trick against Behala Youth. Many critics have dubbed Amitava, who gave a fine account of himself both in the Federation Cup and in the Stafford Cup, a selfish player. However, Shankar Banerjee observes correctly, "One cannot call Amitava a selfish player. It is indirectly paying him a compliment if one does so. To be a selfish player, one really has to be very good. Amitava is good, but because of his inexperience at the top level he is not very consistent."

Mohun Bagan began their campaign in 1982 at the Stafford Cup in Bangalore. They were a relatively inexperienced side in this tournament and had not really developed much of an understanding between themselves. "Nevertheless," said their captain, "Our morale was very high. It took them a few matches to settle down and when they came up against the Iraqi Air Force team in the final, they gave a good account of themselves even though they lost. In the words of the Mohun Bagan coach, 'The foreigners were a better side, but we performed well. If we had played our League engagements in the same fashion no one could have matched us for skill. Leave alone beaten us.' One must remember that at this stage all the players were fit and raring to go."

The main problems started from the early matches and there were many occasions when Shankar Banerjee had only thirteen or fourteen players to choose from. "We were plagued against Railway FC. As you know, they have been giving us trouble over the last couple of years," said Shyam Thapa while taking a few minutes off from training. "The following day East Bengal also dropped a point and we had another golden opportunity to redeem ourselves. But alas we did not utilise it."

The team further jeopardised its position in the League table when they were held to a goalless draw by Wari. "We have given up hope of winning the League," Shankar Banerjee conceded. "My intention now is to raise the playing standard of the team before we embark on our campaign for the IFA Shield."

It is a pity that he feels this way. He should encourage his boys and convince them that they still have a chance to neutralise East Bengal's two-point advantage. The respected coach that he is, he should not be so openly pessimistic. No game or tournament is won till it is won.

Let us look back briefly from the present gloom to the time just after

Mohun Bagan won the Federation Cup and were crowned the "champion team" of the country. They were at their brilliant best in the second leg final against Mohammedan Sporting—"That was the best match we played so far this year," Shankar Banerjee said. "In peak form, we brushed aside the challenge of Mafatlal in the final."

It was a proud moment for Mohun Bagan and Shyam Thapa when the latter received the trophy on that rainy day. The celebrations soon followed. The victorious team was given its air passage back to Calcutta and received a tumultuous welcome at Dum Dum. It is learnt that a bonus of Rs 1,000 was given to each player and training resumed after five days. This is where the Mohun Bagan success story of 1982 ended, one hopes, temporarily.

The youngsters had turned out a memorable performance. Shyam Thapa, down with an upset stomach and fever for the most part of the Federation Cup, and Gautam Sarkar's ankle injury were the only real cause for worry at the time. That is why the team began as odds-on favourites to win the League.

Besides the tale of injuries, there are other contributory factors as well: the inability of the football secretary to devote himself more fully to the game, rank bad luck, coupled with Subrata's relative failure to keep things under control all combined to complete the tale of woe.

There is one more aspect to the story. It is well known that sportsmen are superstitious by nature, though many people dismiss superstitions as grandma's tales. But has superstition affected the performance of India's premier football team in the Calcutta League so far? Before the matches against Railway FC and Wari, the Bagan players were kicking a ball around inside their tent. On both days, a bulb was broken and glass was shattered. I'm those who believe in omens, it did not look very promising. The cynic might dismiss these trivialities as 'childish' but then, one never knows.

One is reasonably sure that Mohun Bagan will soon pull it all together under the able guidance of Shankar Banerjee and Saiten Manna and recover its wounded pride. If Mr Anil Dutta's statements are any indication, a new football secretary may soon be expected to take charge and Francis D'Souza, who was their most effective player in the Federation Cup, must just be able to don his side's colours in the IFA Shield.

Redeem themselves, they almost certainly will. They have the undoubted talent of the present and a glorious tradition of the past from which to draw confidence and fighting spirit to bring about the Mohun Bagan revival.



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

# Ranjit Thapa: Victim of controversy

**HARESH MUNWANI**

**T**HIRTYSEVEN is no age to play football considering that it is a rugged sport with heavy demands on the body and limbs. But then Ranjit Thapa is no ordinary player. Extremely fit and sturdy, the Gorkha half-back can still carry a team on his shoulders. If sheer talent were the criteria Thapa should have been among the Asian probables. But for reasons other than soccer he has yielded his place to younger and lesser talented players.

As a boy, Ranjit had to choose between football and boxing. He says, "even though it was pretty good with the gloves, I felt there was a better scope and future in football."

At the tender age of 12, Ranjit joined the Army's Gorkha boys in Dehra Dun. In six years time, he began playing in the major tournaments in the country for the Gorkha Brigade. The tenacious boys of the Gorkha Brigade won the Durand Cup in 1966 and Ranjit because of his tremendous showing in the tournament was selected to assist the Services in the Nationals at Hyderabad.

In 1968 after having attained the rank of Havildar, Ranjit left the Army with a view to providing a financially secure life for his family. Ranjit joined Mafatlal Sports Club and has stayed with them ever since.

Ranjit played for India in the 1969 Merdeka Football Tournament at Kuala Lumpur and by 1974 was the vice captain of the Indian team. Moreover, he has led Maharashtra in the National championship. But the point remains that after playing 18 years of top level football in the country, Ranjit Thapa even today has the stamina and plays the pivotal role. Be it his club, State or country.

For all his contribution to the game, Thapa is a disillusioned man. He feels he never got his due. When it came to the crunch the men who were running the show, both at the national and the State level, let him down. It came as a rude shock that even after being chosen as the best player of this year's Federation Cup in Calcutta, Thapa was not among the Asian probables. "Apparently, I have learnt that my age has gone against me, which is a pity. Nobody is bothered about my game. All that matters is that I am so many years old. If they have doubts about my energy and stamina let them com-

pare me with any youngster."

Magbool Ahmed, coach of the Mafatlal team, was more emphatic. "The German coach, Detmer Pfeifer in charge of the Asian trainees was insisting on Thapa's inclusion. He was surprised that a player of his calibre could be omitted. But the German's pleas fell on deaf ears."

Why had Thapa been treated in such a manner? Replies Magbool Ahmed. "It's very simple, ego clashes. It is shocking that two of the best halves in the country Thapa and Gautam Sarkar, don't find a place among the probables. I refuse to believe that the two halves chosen, Anthony Rebello from Goa and Pushparaj Kumar from Karnataka are better than Thapa and Sarkar. Any one who knows his football will tell you that it is a planned conspiracy to keep these players out. I think Thapa is suffering because Basha, one of the selectors, does not like him. It goes back to one of the foreign tours when Basha accompanied the team which included Thapa. On the eve of a match, Thapa ate a dozen bananas and this angered Basha. Ever since this—act of indiscipline—Basha has always harboured grudge against Thapa and has kept him away from the limelight."

"But that is not all. There is another reason of keeping Thapa out. If they select him, because of his seniority they would have to make him captain and this is something P. K. Banerjee and Basha, are not prepared to oblige. Banerjee and Basha have vested interests on this subject and Thapa would upset their calculation," remarked Magbool. "Those who are in charge of national football should be above all this. Unfortunately, some are not. Otherwise, how else can one accept the omission of Thapa and Sarkar. Or for that matter the best full-back in the country Subrata Bhattacharya."

Intriguingly enough, even though Ranjit Thapa has been around for the last 18 years, he has no Arjuna Award or the Shivaji Award presented by the State of Maharashtra. Remorsefully and reluctantly, Thapa explains, "That the authorities in Maharashtra insist on giving it to players who are currently in the State team. I can still play for Maharashtra and I am confident that I will

be fit and selected. But State wants to give the youngsters a chance. Besides the country does not need my services any longer. And yet, recently, Maharashtra has given the Shivaji Award to a player who played just one year—and that too decades ago. As for the Arjuna Award, the less said the better. I have never believed in being a sycophant. I feel if I deserve it, I should get it. Why should I beg for it?"

As a player Ranjit Thapa is well-known to students of the game. Opines Magbool Ahmed. "He must be the only player who is popular in all parts of the country. There may be some who are popular in Calcutta and some in Bangalore. But Thapa be it Delhi, Madras, Bombay or Calcutta is a big draw. Ranjit is a good schemer and probably the best shooter in the country. He can control the game. Another reason why Ranjit is so popular because he is a clean player. You will never see him committing intentional fouls. He will never get into fights or arguments. Messing around with the referee is not his way of playing."

What is the motivation for Thapa considering that most players of his age would rather retire and attend to business or family matters? Thapa pauses and continues. "I love football very much. One reason why I have stuck on is because my employers have looked after me rather well. I know I could have secured a coaching contract which could be very lucrative but I would rather be at the centre of everything. I have had offers from the Calcutta clubs. But one of the main considerations in refusing to join them is my contempt for the system. A player from some of these clubs does not give his best for the country. He is always trying to save his limbs from injury. Otherwise the lucrative contract with the clubs will not be forthcoming. In the final analysis the country loses. I don't blame the players. It is the system."

Thapa has had two major injuries. A fracture on his left wrist and another on his back. Otherwise he is a physical fitness maniac. Informs Magbool Ahmed. "He practises two a and half hours everyday. He has never told me that he should be excused on the grounds of age or any other reason. In every game he gives his best. Loyalty amongst Gorkhas is a well-known virtue. One thing is certain. Ranjit will give his best for the team be it club, State or national level football. He is a dedicated and honest lover of the game. He knows his responsibilities and leads a good clean life. The man has football in his feet, the game comes naturally to him but we have some people in the country who are not willing to accept it. The anti-climax of the story is that once Ranjit Thapa hangs his boots he will not even get a free pass to enter the stadium."

## Goals rationed

It was a bad week for the glamour teams. East Bengal dropped a point and Mohammedan Sporting did the same, playing to empty stands. Mohun Bagan won their only match of the week. **SUBHASH SARCAR, SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL and DEREK O'BRIEN report**

**EAST BENGAL:** One striking feature of this year's league championship has been that the so called small clubs have seldom failed to cash in on the weaknesses of their on paper superior rivals. As a result, a number of well contested matches could be witnessed during the current season with the junior teams offering stiff resistance and going on the offensive whenever opportunities came their way. And the 'higs' often found it difficult to keep their slates clean in spite of resorting to unfair means on a number of occasions.

As for East Bengal, things have

always threatened to prove disastrous with most of their star players seeming incredibly unsure with their feet and making the most unpardonable of mistakes at the most crucial moments. During their encounter with Eastern Railway, the home team, at the beginning, raised

*Mihir Bose puts the ball past the Eastern Railway custodian*

hopes that an improved display would be put up and when they took an early lead in the second minute of play through Amalraj, it seemed that the red-yellow outfit were determined to play an aggressive game. But strangely, all expectations were belied soon, as the East Bengal defence suddenly grew unreasonably shaky and vast areas on both the wings were often left unpoliced. Moreover, Biswajit Bose was frequently moving upfield without any apparent purpose. And it was through a gap created by him that Kalipada Halder, after running down the left flank, forwarded a measured pass to Rabin Mondal on the opposite wing and the latter had little difficulty to send the ball home.

That was the reply to Amalraj's opportunism in scoring the first goal for East Bengal which came in an almost similar fashion with a sudden gap being created by the Railway left back and the left hookman and the East Bengal skipper rushing in to

turn it to account.



The equaliser for Railway, however, goaded East Bengal back into the game and the second half saw the home team make a number of quick and well-concerted raids on the East Bengal Railway citadel. But on two occasions the woodwork stood in the way when a shot by Tapan Das and a header by Arup Das rebounded off the right post.

But it did not take them long to get the match-winner. In the 13th minute of the second half Tapan Das found himself with the ball in an unmarked position and did not make any mistake to send it home. And East Bengal scraped through one more time. But a setback was there in store for them. In their next engagement they were held to a one all draw by their decade-old foe Calcutta Port Trust. However, what they really deserved was a defeat which could have taken place, but for ill luck for Port Trust who came close to scoring on quite a number of occasions and even once a beautiful grounder by right striker Monojit Das beat the custodian, but only to hit the far post. Off the rebound, Ashok Pal in a hurry, mistimed to place the ball properly.

In the 12th minute East Bengal got their only goal through a penalty, after Port Trust's Aloke Saha handled the ball inside the box in a desperate bid to thwart a dangerous booking Kartick Sert Sekhar Chakraborty move. Soon Port Trust went all out to compensate for the mistake and then forward, launched some frequent, powerful onslaughts on the rival citadel. But Pulak Biswas took it upon himself to police the entire East Bengal defence zone and proved an insuperable factor for the Port Trust attackers.

At this stage the game started butting up fast with the East Bengal frontliners trying hard to regain the initiative and towards the end of the first half they got two good opportunities which could have proved useful but for Tapan Das who seemed to be miserably lacking in anticipation.

In the second half, the Port Trust players started putting even more pressure on the East Bengal defence which cracked before long, allowing Port Trust to gain complete command over the match. A number of good opportunities came their way. Though they proved abortive, the Port Trust frontliners never relented in their effort to get the equaliser. In the tenth minute Ashok Pal got an easy chance to score, after a Monojit Das shot had rebounded off the post to him. All that he had to do was to place the ball home, but he fumbled and the ball missed the mark.

As has been already pointed out in the previous reports on East Bengal's performances, lack of understanding among the half liners and the deep defenders has been one of the main reasons for East Bengal's poor showing this season, and that was once

again the case with the big club when Port Trust ultimately got the equaliser through Ashok Pal. As the Port Trust forwards were launching an attack and penetrating fast into the East Bengal defence zone Pulak Biswas, who had been playing well so far, did not rush forward to stop his opponents, expecting Biswasjit Bose to clear the ball. By the time he realised his mistake, Monojit Das, who was spearheading the attack, had centred the ball from the goal line and Ashok Pal put the ball past a diving Tapas Chakraborty, the East Bengal custodian.

Now it was turn for East Bengal to retaliate and tilt the balance in their favour once again. But sadly, never did they seem to have any such intention thereafter. Of course, they did make some attempts, but they were far too half hearted to cause any real danger for their 'inferior' rivals.

On the Port Trust side, the Monojit Bose-Ashok Pal combination became a constant source of trouble for the East Bengal defenders. The two play-

ed with accurate passes and time and again positioned themselves in the most dangerous and opportune spots to launch lightning onslaughts on the rival citadel.

However, it was not quite an unexpected experience for East Bengal. In the last 12 years only twice have they been able to defeat Port Trust, who, on the other hand, have already avenged one of their two defeats. Here they got a gem of an opportunity to level terms. Only a little bit of imagination and somewhat finer finish would have done it for them.

**MOHAMMEDAN S C** The home team resumed their league engagements after a deferment the previous week in protest of police excesses on July 9. But the match against Babes Barisha did not augur well as the black and whites failed to earn full points. Majid was lost without lamshed and the reinforcement of Latifuddin in the attack proved ineffective.

Why did Mohammedan Sporting draw and who are to blame for this?

*Kartick Sert looks on as Shekhar Chakraborty tries to get the better of a Port defender*







Mohammedan Sporting playing to empty stands

The home team was morally beaten the moment they took the field. How can a team perform without the chants of their supporters and members? The empty galleries had a tremendous psychological bearing on the team although the fanatics may have shouted from the ramparts.

Both the members and supporters may have a justified point with regard to the IFA League Subcommittee's indecision on the abandoned match with Railway I C and the police action on both members and ticket holders on the same day. But why should they encourage erring players? Many think that the suspension of Jamshed Nasiri and Pem Dorji was too harsh. When asked to comment on the team's performance Naveem said "They did perform badly but how can they play well without the supporters? The empty stands did harm to them psychologically." It is gathered that the members are dissatisfied with the players in general and the club officials. This is another reason why they boycotted the match although some who had taken their seats in the member stands were dragged out.

The turn-out on the day was fairly large but not a soul dared to buy a ticket for fear of getting hammered up. Simultaneously Lal Bazar feared a flare up and so manned the area with more forces. Some dadas gave speeches in front of the gates which further swayed many into not buying tickets. This was followed up with a demonstration in protest against the July 9 incident. So not a single ticket was bought and the fanatics witnessed the lack-lustre match from the ramparts.

The way Mohammedan S C played was very frustrating. One should applaud the fighting quality of the

junior team and their holding of the giants. Most of the game was played on the midfield. But then Barisha had ample scope of turning the tables in their favour. Arun Mauna got a centre on top of the box but he dilly-dallied in positioning himself and his shot at goal was foiled by an onrushing defender. Majid too exhibited his class—the only bit of it in the whole match—when he headed the ball to Somenath Banerjee precisely but the onrushing Barisha custodian Samir Dey plunged desperately on to the ball and saved the situation. After lemon time, Mohammedan S C had a slight edge with the inclusion of the old guard Latifuddin. Barisha defenders were kept busy for sometime and in the process Nirmal Chatterjee attempted a shot from a melee but the ball rebounded off the post for Debasis Mishra to head. Unfortunately, the latter's header also met with the same fate. The home team received another opportunity as a combined Latifuddin-Debasis Mishra move saw the ball passed to Majid, but the Barisha stopper Sukanta Banerjee's timely interception saved the day.

Even if Mohammedan S C performed shabbily as a team individual brilliance was also absent too. On the other hand Barisha's stoppers did well to hold the rival attack and medio Souren Dutta fed his forwards properly. They played well and deserved the point.

**MOHUN BAGAN:** It is not very often that we see a team, other than the 'Big Three' winning five matches on the trot in the Calcutta League. However, George Telegraph were a worthy exception. They had won five matches in a row before they took on Mohun Bagan who had earlier play-

ed a goalless draw against Wari. Many a follower of the game thought, and rightly so, that the maroon-and-green shirts would find it difficult to put it across Telegraph. This was not so, and it was a refreshing sight to see, arguably, their best performance.

Subrata Bhattacharya redeemed some of his prestige by putting up a good display, and with that old war-horse Gautam Sarkar at his brilliant best, Mohun Bagan on one of the few occasions this season played the brand of football which one knows them for.

"I am very happy with the performance of my boys today. It was all the more creditable because they went into the match under tremendous pressure. In our previous encounter, we dropped a point to Wari and came in for severe criticism. It is good to be back on the winning trail again," a slightly relieved Shankar Banerjee, coach of Mohun Bagan, said after the match.

The glamour team met with a bit of a setback in the seventh minute of the match when Shyam Tripathi injured his leg and had to be replaced by Bikash Panji. The latter did a good job as a substitute and with Gautam Sarkar and Krishnendu Roy controlling the midfield, the home side looked very organised. Midway through the first half Bagan set up a wonderful opportunity to score. Gautam Sarkar latched on to a good Panji pass and found his fellow linkman Krishnendu. The latter passed the ball to Amit Bagchi who in turn set it up for Krishanu Dev. Dev, from hand-shaking distance shot wide of the goalmouth.

Telegraph were lucky not to concede a goal in the first half. This was mainly due to erratic shooting on the part of the home team forwards. They had ample opportunities set up for them by their linkmen and with Subrata Bhattacharya and Dilip Pal overlapping well, Mohun Bagan were all over their opponent.

The maroon and green shirts also dominated the proceedings after lemon time and it was only a matter of time before the Telegraph citadel fell. A tireless Krishnendu Roy, floated the ball into the opponent's penalty box. Subrata Bhattacharya went up for the ball with the Telegraph custodian Rathin Dutta, who could not control the ball properly and an opportunistic Amit Bagchi made no mistake.

Telegraph who had earlier collected 17 points from their 20 outings—not too bad a record—were completely at sea in this match. Their defence lacked confidence and it did not come as a surprise when Krishanu Dev scored his side's second goal 15 minutes from the end. He took an angular shot after outwitting rival stopper Nripen Pal—in the words of Shankar Banerjee—"It was a wonderful goal." Mohun Bagan did a good job.



## The retreat

WHERE else could he be? A player who has disgraced himself by indulging in violence in the ground during an important league match and that too after conceding a goal to a lowly team naturally becomes a liability to the club authorities who find themselves left with no option but to take action against him like suspending him from the team for a certain period.

Thereafter, he is a no-man's-lander and for some time Pem Dorji was seen keeping the goal during the morning practice sessions of the Mohammedan Sporting football team. And even more striking, he was being given serious training by the captain of the side, Moidul Islam.

It is no use commenting on how this stormy petrel of Mohammedan Sporting fared in his new position. That is not too important. The only thing to take note of is the symbolic significance of the sight—the key defender of Mohammedan Sporting has retreated to the last line of defence.

## vested interest

THE regulars have their own rules and conventions, which can not be broken under any circumstances. Of the thousands of spectators who frequent the three enclosed grounds of the maidan, there are certain people for whom going to one of them is a routine affair, especially when their own favourite teams are to take on one of their rivals in the running for the league title. They are the old familiar faces of the stands. They have their own groups, their own likes and dislikes and their own 'reserved seats'.

The other day, a newcomer to this fan world violated the 'law' by sitting in one of these

## Maidan musings



veteran's seats. In no time the other ground birds took note of it and had a quick discussion among themselves. The next move was a straightforward warning to the offender: "Move away from that seat or you will have to face dire consequences before long." But the 'offender' was not that meek and submissive a man. He went on arguing for some time, but in vain. When he proved a really hard nut to crack, his opponents simply pushed him away and ordered him to seek a seat in the lower tiers of the stands. Majority is strength and the helplessness has to endure what cannot be cured.

## Love and anger

Love is perhaps the strongest emotion in the human mind and mother

pass, one knows one's calm and emotions burst out in blind fits of irremediable rage.

Sometimes his anger may egg him on to cause harm to his very beloved ones and sometimes his frustration may seek vent through acts which are literally suicidal.

This is particularly the case with those peculiar creatures on earth called football-lovers. There are stories about fans, disgusted at their favourite team's defeat, smashing their TV sets, an angry father knocking out his son's tooth for supporting the "wrong" side, a catholic nun trying to strangle a rival team supporter. These are all incidents unforgettably written in the history of the game.

Now, here is a story of a fan creating a scene in his favourite club ground on a quiet summer morning. After a series of poor performances, the East Bengal team were practising very sincerely.

As usual a number of soccer connoisseurs were hanging around watching the proceedings. Suddenly, when one of the players made a bad mistake a young man standing on the sidelines started abusing him bitterly, as if he had let the team down in a crucial match against a formidable rival team. Instantly, all the club players surrounded the man and a fist fight threatened to break out, with the offending supporter threatening to avenge his insult in the club's next league engagement. Suddenly it was discovered that the man was a member of the club itself. Now a few club officials intervened and the man was taken inside the tent, still shouting. "I love the club and that gives me the right to abuse its players and whoever harms its interest." Would you call it fanaticism or the poorest kind of emotional attachment?

of any other moods which have little resemblance to it in nature—indifference, disappointment, anger and even hatred. When the beloved one behaves in an undesirable manner, lovers feel pangs of regret in their hearts. When dreams woven around them start falling apart, the realities of life grow too harsh to bear, life seems bleak, vacant and meaningless—a burden not worth carrying. But these are extreme cases. They occur only once in a while in a man's life. But situations are not rare either when a loved one fails to live up to expectations.

The result is disappointment—deep, depressing and disquieting. The sufferer's mind is taxed. But there are limits to one's endurance and when things deteriorate to an intolerable

## NORTH ZONE CRICKET CAMPS

# Standard quite good

**H**IMACHAL PRADESH, the beautiful fruit producing hill State of the north striving to become a full fledged member of the country's cricketing fraternity, was this summer given the task of organising the North Zone coaching camp for promising under-19 cricketers. Showing the zeal of a recruit who one day hopes to be sworn in as a "regular", the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association was naturally keen to give a good account of itself (it is now only an associate member of the Board of Control for Cricket in India).

One can imagine the disappointment of the organisers when they found that the camp, which according to the coach in charge, Gurcharan Singh, was a success organisationally as well as cricket-wise, came in for adverse notice by a letter writer in a leading provincial daily who preferred to stay anonymous.

The letter had complained against the board and lodging arrangements made for the young cricketers—allegations which have been expectedly denied. The official report submitted to the Board, one learns, is all praise for the standard of hospitality at the camp, which was also visited by a Board "observer".

Be that as it may. Any visit to a State like Himachal Pradesh is an enjoyable experience, particularly

for the young. The invigorating weather, the tree-covered hills and other sights are seldom forgotten by young minds. For once, the young cricketers at Chamba must have realised how rewarding it can be to excel at the game and be spotted for one's talent. The camp, away from energy sapping heat of the searing Northern plains, the Chamba camp was one more proof of the talent the North is brimming with. The most outstanding at Chamba was Atul Mohindia, a wicketkeeper batsman. Coaches Gurcharan Singh and Kishore Kumar were unanimous in their views that Mohindia is a cricketer who will one day not only play an outstanding role in North Zone cricket but also on the national scene. Here is the assessment of Gurcharan Singh, the Board's official coach for North Zone, among whose famous pupils are such players as Kirti Azad, Maninder Singh and Gursharan Singh. "I can't find the exact words to write how a lad of 16 can be so forceful and so good in defence. His technique cannot be faulted and in the near future he will be known as one of the classic batsmen not only in the North Zone but also in the entire country." However, Mohindia is known to be a little temperamental, and a long lecture was given to the Delhi boy to make him realise in his own interest, the benefit of remain-

ing "calm and cool on and off the field."

C P Singh, a middle-order batsman, is another under-19 placed in the "most outstanding" category in the official report to the Board. His choice of balls to punish, and the power he imparts to his shots, covers drives particularly, have come in for special mention. "He will be the most outstanding middle-order batsman in the zone in the coming years," says Gurcharan Singh.

The general standard of the trainees was quite good. They trained on the turf pitch at the Chogan Ground. However, there was no cement pitch which coaches find very helpful for the type of "rectification work."

Not long ago Rohtak was unknown on the cricket map. Today this dusty Haryana town, about two hours' drive from the capital is developing into a cricket centre. Rohtak was once known only for its wrestlers, soldiers and the quality of its cattle. Now, it has also made its contribution to cricket. It is the home town of the evergreen Rajinder Goel, the highest wicket-taker in Indian cricket. The pitches at Vaish College and Vishwakarma High School have staged important cricket fixtures. It was at Vishwakarma School that Gurcharan Singh conducted the three week camp for North Zone's chosen under-19 cricketers, shortly before he left for Chamba. Gurcharan was assisted by two other coaches—Vijay Jain and Gurmeet Singh, both are trained coaches.

If the coaches' opinion is to be believed, North Zone continues to have ample reserves of strength also at the under-19 level. From board and lodging to ground facilities, transport, medical cover, cricket gear and diet, officials of the Rohtak Cricket Association, led by secretary M K Bacha, organised everything to the satisfaction of the coaches. It was a hard grind for the boys. But when a man like Gurcharan Singh is in charge, it can't be otherwise. There are few task masters as dedicated as Gurcharan.

The Cricket Board, which foots the bill for these camps, expects the trainees to put in at least six hours' work each day. The coaching hours were 7 to 10 in the mornings and 4 to 7 in the afternoons. One can trust a man like Gurcharan to see that not a single minute is wasted.

Adjudged most outstanding at the camp was Delhi's Sanjay Sharma, a right hand bat and off-break bowler. This lad, who has been coached at the nets of the National Institute of Sports, Delhi, for the last five years, has been showing rapid improvement. Now that he has become stronger he packs much power in his game, batting, bowling or fielding. He is a promising prospect for the future.

A CORRESPONDENT

*Coach Gurcharan Singh instructs a bowler at the Chamba camp for under-19s*



# Kerala kaleidoscope

## Incentives

**K**ERALA has always been in the forefront when it comes to giving encouragement to sportsmen. In the past too, it had launched many schemes for the welfare of sportsmen but the present incentive schemes offered to the athletes who emerge victorious in the forthcoming Asiad will go down in history as another shining example worth emulating. The Kerala Government has announced in its revised budget a reward of Rs 1 lakh each to all athletes and players from Kerala who win gold medals in the Asian Games. The winners of silver and bronze medal will receive Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,000, respectively. In addition to this the Government also proposes to award Rs 5,000 each to all those selected to the coaching camps preceding the Asiad. The Finance Minister K. M. Mani, who announced the proposal in his revised budget said that Rs 5 lakh has been set apart in the budget for this. Referring to the important place that this State has secured in the field of sport in the country, Mr Mani said that, "we could stand foremost in this field by providing further incentives and training facilities to our athletes and players."

The Kerala Government also proposes to enhance the coverage of the sports council activities. The Government has also decided to extend financial assistance to the sports council for the manufacture of sports goods. Provision of stadia in all the twelve district headquarters, the taking over of the Trivandrum Flying Club and encouraging the creation of sports facilities in rural areas were some of the measures contemplated for the promotion of sports in the State. Kerala's potential medal winners include sprinters P. T. Usha and K. K. Premachandran, and hurdler M. D. Valsamma.

The step to reward the athletes of the State who bring laurels to the country, calls for other States and the Centre too, to take up similar

incentive schemes to boost the morale of our sportsmen, who have for long remained a frustrated community.

## Aquatics drowning

**T**HE long standing differences, on the propriety of the central council decision suspending the voting rights of four district units—Trivandrum, Palghat, Trichur, Idukki, sparked off in the annual general body meeting of the Kerala Aquatic Association (KAA) to heated discussion and finally leading to an inevitable split.

The president who ruled out the question of withdrawing the decision was called upon by the majority to face a no confidence motion against him. The president and his supporters left the venue in a huff. The others remained to adopt the resolution and elected Mr P. C. George (Idukki) as their president and Mr T. S. Zackaria (Kottayam) as the Kerala Sports Council representative. The other faction elected Mr S. Anantha Krishnan as president and T. Sukumaran Nair as the KSC representative. However, the group led by P. C. George MLA claims to have the support of six district units and nine corporate units. Altogether, there are nine district units and five corporate units. The KAA is the long State association giving voting rights to corporate members, according to a member of the KSC. This is said to be against the guidelines of the AICS.

The split in the association had come at the wrong moment, which had prevented Kerala from participating in the 9th National Age Group Aquatic Championships at Kanpur. Had the Kerala team been at Kanpur there would have been a close tussle between the present holders Maharashtra, West Bengal and Kerala and—certainly a few more records would have fallen with Kerala's presence. Kerala boys and girls hold the existing records in many events and they were the overall champions in the boys section last year. The untimely split has left the dreams of many star swimmers in the State shattered and deprived many incentives, scholarships and stipends offered by the Government.

However, Mr P. C. George, the president of one faction, has alleged irregularities and misappropriation of funds by the rival faction and has requested the Chief Minister and the Sports Minister to conduct a vigilance enquiry. He said that many deserving swimmers were denied seats in Sports Divisions and Sports Hostels because of nepotism shown by the members of the rival faction who were holding official posts for a

pretty long time. He further alleged that the swimmers who attended the coaching camp, were given only Rs 8 per head as allowance against the State's sanction of Rs 15 per head. He also claimed that his association wanted to send the State team to Kanpur but the officials of the other faction left for Kanpur taking the tickets of swimmers with them. Mr George also wanted effective measures to ensure that the Government had real control over the function of the State Sports Council.

Meanwhile, Sports Minister K. P. Nooruddin said in the Assembly that the Government was looking into the circumstances leading to the non-participation of the Kerala team in the recently concluded Age Group Aquatic Meet in Kanpur.

## Cycling punctured

**T**HE Kerala Cycling Association has also split up. One faction is headed by N. S. Pillai and the other by G. Karthikeyan, MLA (Congress-I). The split came up when the members questioned the existing committee on the widespread irregularities and misappropriation of funds in the association at the general body meeting.

Meanwhile the Trivandrum District Basketball Association was also on the verge of polarisation. But the timely intervention of the Kerala Basketball Association has patched up the differences and stopped an immediate split. However, the problem has not been resolved completely and a virtual split in the near future cannot be ruled out.

## Politicians play havoc

**M**OST of the associations are controlled by politicians and their factions. They make these institutions a merry house for self-aggrandisement. The political horse trading which they have practised on the floors is also made to work in these associations. Meanwhile it is understood that the perks offered for these greedy officials are lucrative and thus the scramble for the positions. Whereas the allowances and perks offered to players are meagre and hardly make both ends meet.

It is time for the Government to take stringent measures and bring in new legislation, if necessary, to curb the practice of splitting up associations and forbid the lucrative perks offered to officials. The perks should be done away with and only one who is dedicated to the promotion of sports need be inducted into the associations. Otherwise, these bodies will only turn out to be a mockery rather than what they are really meant for.

M. P. SURESH

Malapparamba



PYONG YANG OPEN T T

## India flatter to deceive

RAJAT KATHURIA

INDIA flourishing teeth in a field of eleven in the women's section aptly sums up the plight of the present women's team without Indu Priya. India was unable to play in the team matches as she was nursing a sprained ankle. The mishap occurred at a time when the whole Indian team was under tremendous pressure and tension.

It seemed as if we would never reach Pyong Yang in time for the open table tennis tournament. We left Bombay for Hong Kong without Chinese visas and our tickets from Hong Kong to Peking and Pyong Yang were on request. We were unable to catch our scheduled flight to Peking from Hong Kong; instead we flew to Shanghai. The excess fare for this sector was borne by the players themselves. Finally, it was the Indian Embassy in China which catered to all our needs, so there is no possibility for helping us reach our place of destination on the evening of the second. I am not blaming anyone for the difficulties which the players have had to experience, but merely emphasising that such things should not be repeated.

Within an hour of our arrival here, we had to play a match. As if this were not enough, India suffered an ankle injury and was rested for the team matches. Without Indu, the

women's team looked a helpless lot. The other players have been given a number of opportunities before but have repeatedly failed. So why not fall back on the older players who had been serving India well in the past? These tournaments are to provide international exposure to players with a certain purpose—to build a strong team for the forthcoming Asian Games in Delhi this November. It is, therefore, imperative that the selection for any such tournament be based strictly on merit.

However, coming to the Pyong Yang Open Championship, it was a failure for the organisers as only seven teams turned up. To make up Korea fielded four teams—both in the men's and the women's. This is in marked contrast to the enormous participation in the Seoul Open Championship with which this tournament is trying to compete.

In the men's section India started remarkably well, beating the second team from Korea 5-3. Playing for Korea in this tie were two national players who had played for their country in the recent Asian Table Tennis championship at Jakarta. This is India's first ever victory over the Koreans. Kamlesh and I won two matches each, while Chandrasekhar won the other one.

We also recorded easy victories over Poland and Egypt but eventually lost to Korea 11-4-5 to finish sixth. S. Sriram performed very well for India, winning two of the three matches. In his third match, with the scores level at 4-4, Sriram failed to wrap up the tie for India as his nerves gave way at the crucial stage. A word about the umpiring. It left much to be desired and a number of decisions went against us. The fact that our Korean coach Pak U Gil



Sriram performed well

himself indulged to us speaks for itself.

As expected, the Chinese made a clean sweep of all the titles, the men's team, the women's team, men's singles, women's singles and all the doubles. Although the women's National team they were a cut above the rest and their superiority was never in doubt.

In the individual events, Chandrasekhar was beaten in two games by Korean Li Hui in 11 in the first round. Top seed Ju Yong Ho, also from Korea, beat V. Chandramouli in straight games, while Kamlesh Mehta was subdued by Munir Chul, Korea. I defeated Korean Chae Hak in straight games in the first round but went down to Akiko of Japan in a consolation but played rather well in the subsequent round. After two good victories in the team event, Sriram was a picture of confidence as he faced Li Chul of Korea in the first round. Chul is very fast on his feet, as are all the Koreans, and he threatened to outwit Sriram as he won the first game convincingly. Thereafter, Sriram steadied himself and played more on the Korean's extreme to win the match in five games in the second round. Sriram overwhelmed an admirable Stefanov from Bulgaria in four games. It was indeed unfortunate that he ran into Chinese Fan Changmao in the pre-quarter final. He could do little in this match and lost in straight games.

All the women players, Indu Priya, Smitthda Mehta, Laxmi Karanth, Mona Lisa Barua and Rita Jini lost in the first round to the Koreans. The Korean women are very quick and much faster. The month-long joint training programme with the Koreans will do the women's team a world of good. A similar camp is being held for the men's team too, but, what remains to be seen is whether we can make good of this opportunity which has come our way.

Indu Priya—still indispensable



# India capitalise on absentees

**T**HE 10th Asian Amateur Boxing Championships were held at the Seoul Sports Complex Gymnasium (Samcheil Stadium). This mammoth stadium (constructed in 1979, seating capacity 20 000) will be one of the major sites for the 1988 Olympics. A total of 74 boxers from Bangladesh, Brunei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand took part.

Korea won the team championship with 7 gold, one silver and 4 bronze medals. Thailand took the second position with two gold, four silver, three bronze while India was in third position with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

Indian heavyweight Kam Singh picked up gold medals in the Asian Boxing for two successive years. Mohab Singh, in Indian light-heavy, also achieved this honour, striking golds in Tehran and Bangkok. Sung

Chul Kim (KOR) also bagged the middleweight gold in Bangkok (1973) and Yokohama (1975). Kam Singh, a steady soldier of the Indian army, also claimed a gold in the recent King's Cup at Bangkok.

At the Samcheil Stadium in Seoul, Kam convincingly sent Thailand's Wichansai twice to the canvas and got a unanimous points verdict. Korean So Bae Wun proved a tough opponent in the final. The home crowd lent added support along with his crashing appetitions and swings. His long reach and endurance helped Kam to defeat the speedy Korean. Indeed, it was a close contest between two mighty boxers of the Asian arena. Bae Wun was more effective at close quarters. Kam more efficient at long range where his one-two punch, the left lead followed immediately by the right cross to the jaw (George Carpenter's special punch) repeatedly pierced the Korean 'Head Hunter'. This

earned him vital points to defend the crown successfully.

Jasral Pradhan (25) used his skill and guts to claim the first gold in the lightweight class for India. Pradhan whipped Japan's Arai and entered the semi-final to conquer his Indonesian opponent Ariawan. His piston-like straight left punches knocked out the Indonesian in the very first round. The knock-out punches from Thailand Sawadi Wong stood in his way. Wong knocked out all his rivals including the Korean hero Lee in the early rounds. Wong's terrible left hook dropped Pradhan in the second round. Pradhan also put Wong on the rope by his favourite combination, a straight left followed by a confident right-cross. The final bell saved Wong from a knock-out.

India's 27-year-old knock-out hero C. Macharrah sent Wong Pak Cheany of Hong Kong to the hospital in the second round in the former's first outing. But he lost to Chung Bum of



The Indian team that won the Asian Amateur Boxing Championships



Korea on points after a bloody brawl and had to be satisfied with a silver medal. The 24-year-old Amaldas sent U Tsang of Hong Kong twice to the canvas and beat the Japanese Hatakeyama on a unanimous decision. Finally he lost to Klinchan of Thailand on a split points 3-2 decision and brought home a silver.

Promising featherweight M Xavier put up a very gutsy and spirited performance against the Korean Park Chul—the eventual gold medalist—in the semi final bout and earned a bronze. Another bronze winner Bansi Dhar also put up a gallant show against a much superior Korean Kim Ho who finally claimed the gold.

India's hope for another glittering gold medal was shattered when the Medical Commission did not allow light middleweight K B Chettur to box due to a deep scar on his left eye brow. Bantamweight G Mancharan was also unfit as he was suffering from high fever. B S Thapa was not present. Among the lighter men, the Indian C Narayan had caught the eye in the international arena in the early Seventies. And Thapa became hero for a couple of years. India could not produce a new champ and the lightweight fly Sanmugam was no exception at Seoul.

Korea fielded a team of 12 pugilists, one in each weight category and all of them reaped rich harvest. The Best Boxer's award went to Korean light welterweight Kim Tong Kil.

During the second AABC at Seoul

in 1965 the Korean team picked up a record number of eight gold medals.

In all they have collected 38 gold medals in the ten meets held so far at Bangkok, Seoul, Colombo, Manila, Tehran, Yokohama, Jakarta, Bombay and once again in Seoul. Iran has bagged 17 gold, Japan 15, Thailand 10, Pakistan 9 and the Indians have seven medals in their kitty.

Indian boxing, centred round pugilists from the Services has not shown vast improvement. The eleven-man team however, did well to score 24 points to share the team championship with the Koreans in the 9th AABC at Bombay but have since disappointed. Indian boys successfully met the hard hitting Mongolians, Russians and Iraqis specially in heavier weight groups in earlier meets. None of these countries were present at the Seoul meet and India had a good chance to come home with more medals.

Three months are left for the Asiad and O P Bhardwaj, G S Sandhu and Viswakarma are putting the Indian team into shape. Before the Asiad the team will go to Busan to participate in the Commonwealth Games. The boxers have not yet had the services of an expert from an advanced country as has been done in the other disciplines. George Zeller, the Canadian Coach helped us to do miracles at Bombay even though he got four months' time to work. The Cuban Government sent Carlos Fuentes to help us out in December last. The project was Car-

los will stay up to the Asiad and the Indian team will undergo special coaching at Havana for three months. But the language problem compelled Carlos to abandon the project. The golden chance of acquiring valuable knowledge from the leading boxing nation of the world is now lost. But there was another piece of good news for the boys.

The Indian Amateur Boxing Federation requested the AIBA to spare the reputed coach Sam Hickman.

Hickman was expected on July 7. Brig D N Devine-Jones, the IABF secretary said, "We do not expect Hickman to work miracles but I am sure he will be able to brush up the technique and style of our pugilists to a great extent." Hickman, the permanent coach of Joe Frazier's Gym USA, came to Patiala to oblige. His comment "Indian boys are physically conditioned. They are as fit as my boys in the USA. But they lack boxing technique and tactics." Hickman has arrived. Let us hope that he will give the finishing touch, so that India can win many gold medals. Sardar Buta Singh said the other day in Bombay that he pinned his hopes on our boxers. The Indian Hawa Singh picked up two successive golds in the 1966 and '70 Games. P. B. Mall was awarded the 'best boxer' at the Jakarta Asiad. Now Pragati Maidan is the centre of attraction. Thousands are waiting eagerly for the big day.

ASIT BANERJEE

## World parachute jumping on

THE International Aeronautical Federation (IAI) has awarded the 16th World Championships in parachute jumping to Czechoslovakia. The venue is the airfield of Svazarm—ruling body of technical sports in Czechoslovakia—at Lucenec, Central Slovakia. The airfield of the local Aeroklub is situated in a region with relatively stable climatic conditions and naturally meets all the requirements of the IAI for the competition. There are sandy landing areas for simultaneous landings in men's and women's events.

During the 14-day championships, which is currently on, the programme is identical to the one held last in Bulgaria, but the centre of the target areas has a diameter of 5 cm, instead of the previous 10 cm circle. One highlight is that the judges and commentators have the latest technical equipment at their disposal, including a videorecording system, to better judge the figures. Landing precision are measured electronically.

Among the 30 participating countries where this sport has reached

the highest performance standards are the USSR, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, the United States, Canada, France, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Cuba and China. Therefore the participation made it all the more necessary to prepare the best conditions for the entrants and the accompanying technical personnel. The airfield is extremely well equipped to begin with but the organisers still decided to make extensive improvements and reconstructions. The airfield area resurfaced a new central building constructed and the existing facilities, and hangars have been renovated. An asphalt-surfaced runway, 800 metres long and 30 metres wide, making possible take-offs and landings also in the rain, has already been completed.

Instead of large army tents usually used by competing teams at such events, the organisers at Lucenec have erected around the 100-metre landing circle 40 accommodation units, with space for parachutes and gear. There is a TV monitor in each unit, so that all participants will be

able to follow not only the precision landings of their rivals but also the jumps from an altitude of 2,000 metres and the complexes of acrobatic figures during the free fall. A section of the hangar has been converted into a mess hall, another into an area of refreshment stands and shops.

On the opening day of the championships, a large international air show was given, with demonstration flights and jumps by the best Svazarm pilots and parachutists, Czechoslovak Air Force pilots, and foreign airmen.

Also the town of Lucenec has been spruced up for the event. The square with a fountain has also been reconstructed and a new department store is nearing completion. A new bus station has been built and the Youth Home for the participants has been modernised.

Lucenec has pledged to provide the best conditions with the spirit of the motto of the event, "Through sport for peace, friendship and co-operation between the nations of the world."



**"I** KNOW I cried after Medinah but I also know that it made a better man of me. I learned from it and I am sure Nick will, too. He is a strong aggressive player. He had six birdies yesterday. That is quite something." —Golf millionaire Tom Watson after beating South African Nick Price by a stroke for the Open Golf Championship at Troon

I AM not concerned by the number of strokes I lead. Golf is a challenge against yourself. I am not going to change my strategy but will continue to see how low I can score. —American Bobby Clampett after making a course record during the Open Golf Championship at Royal Troon

**"I** HAVE set myself up as a target and it now means that I have to try to keep winning. If I don't then what I did in Oslo will soon be forgotten." —David Moore, not what set the world 5,000 metre record in Oslo

**"W**HEN Kevin Beattie received medical advice to retire, we understood the specialist to mean he should cease to play football at a professional level or he would risk permanent damage to his right knee. —Patrick Cobbedd, the Ipswich manager regarding Beattie's misleading testimonial about retiring from the club. (The Daily Telegraph)

**"P**EOPLE are scared to one day cricket now. But they must remember that this is different and you don't see balls flying to the bound any every couple of seconds." —England captain Bob Willis on not declaring earlier against India

**"I** WOULD be reluctant to lose Peter but our financial situation is such that we are having to give the offer serious consideration. I have put the position to Peter and he is

thinking it over." —Leeds United manager Eddie Gray's reaction when Spain's Real Betis asked England winger Peter Barnes to join them

**"T** appeared at first to be an error, but it wasn't as was made clear by the surprises brought about by such teams as Algeria and Cameroon. I think Cote-d'Ivoire would find it very difficult to stage the 1986 finals with the increased number of teams." —Raimondo Saporta, head of the twelfth World Cup in Spain, claims. (The Daily Telegraph)

**"F**OR a country the size of ours and with such a small number of players to choose from to get this far is a tremendous achievement. I can't praise too highly the effort, organisation and fitness of the players and to be beaten by France was no dishonour. —Billy Bingham, the Scotland manager

**"W**E both gave everything we had and that is why I like playing McEnroe. He brings out the best in me.



because he fights for every ball." —Jimmy Connors after defeating the Wimbledon singles champion. (The Daily Telegraph)

**"T**HERE does not seem to be any pride among the majority of athletes. They don't know

## SPORT QUOTE

how to enjoy themselves, they want to take a lot but they don't want to give anything in return." —Mary Peters, the Munich Olympic pentathlon gold medalist

**"W**e appreciate spectators' enthusiasm and involve them in the interest of players, umpires and fellow spectators we must request cooperation in not invading the football pitch at any time. To the fan to all, we must issue a warning that if this co-operation is not forthcoming, you will force the club to take the severest action. —Lancashire County chairman Cedric Rhodes. (The Daily Telegraph)

**"M**y ambition is to become world champion and I put aside a couple of minutes every day to feed my subconscious that I will be champion." —Rory Gumb, the British middleweight champion, acting as sparring partner to John Conteh

**"T**HE pitch wasn't helping pace and it wasn't helping spin. So I looked at Rad and I looked at Emburey and said, 'What do you think? Should I have a go?' —Mike Gatting of Middlesex, who got the nod from his two colleagues and took five Nottingham's scalps for just 34. (The Guardian)

**"M**R JIMMY HILL is acting irresponsibly. We are very concerned primarily for the players whom we believe have been misled." —Football Association secretary Ted Croker, criticising Hill, the South African tour consultant. (The Guardian)

**"I**f the Football League allows this to happen it would be setting a very dangerous precedent." —Kelly Gilbery writes to League secretary Graham Kelly pointing out that Wolves' receivership may go into liquidation. (The Guardian)

**"T**HE Football Association employ a coaching staff of eleven, with the scheme costing £800,000 a year. Clearly much changes will follow and the FA will make a more detailed announcement soon." —Stephen Berkeley of The Guardian

**"I** AM very flattered and extremely proud and honoured. As a child, coming to the British Open was one of my greatest dreams. Playing Troon and St Andrews this is something I know my father would have dearly loved. Golf millionaire Arnold Palmer said this when he was made the honorary life member of Royal Troon Club. (The Guardian)

**"H**OW can you take Gott Dremmler, who gets stuck into the game and does all the dirty work when others tail in the midfield?" —German player Stielike commenting on manager Jupp Heynckes' tactics in the final against Italy. Regarding Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Stielike says, "He realised himself he could not produce the performance needed. Why didn't he have the courage to have himself taken off sooner? We played with only 10 men for four or five matches while five players sat on the bench or in the stands." (The Guardian)

## Black belt beauty

Of the few Indian women who have the rare distinction of winning a black belt in the martial art of Judo, **Khoisnam Sabitri Chanu** of Manipur is one. She was recently awarded the black belt by Kodokan University of Japan through the Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports, Patiala.

Smart and pretty Sabitri was born in Imphal on July 3, 1956. Though she had seen judo and karate demonstrations from a very young age, she was not very interested in it until 1977 when she was greatly impressed by a judo demonstration. She began picking up the rudimentaries of this sport from those who used to practise in the Judo and Karate Academy in the Old Place compounds of Imphal.

Seeing her practising K Chandra, a black belt holder himself, noticed her talent and immediately took her under his tutelage. Incidentally, K. Chandra is the founder of the Judo and Karate Academy, known in short as JKKA. Sabitri soon turned out to be a force to reckon with in judo. In her very first performance in the All Manipur Judo Championship in October 1980, she secured the first place in the lightweight category of 40 to 45 Kgs. In the karate championship she was placed third but she did not accept the prize due to alleged partiality by the referee.

Representing Manipur, she bagged the second place in the All India Women's Judo Championship, held in New Delhi in November 1980.

For her superb performance, Sabitri, 24 inch short of five feet, was selected for a 10 month course in judo at the Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports. She joined the Institute in July 1981 and successfully completed the course in April this year. For her outstanding performance during the course she was awarded the black belt. The other three women who have been awarded the black belt so far are Manjiv Kaur (Punjab), Leelamona (Karnataka) and Binita D Souza (Gujarat).

Presently in the final year of B.A. Sabitri's achievements in other fields have been no less impressive. With her father serving in the Special Security Bureau she took part in the All India Divisional Special Security Bureau Shooting Competition for three consecutive years from 1976 to 1978. Amongst the women she stood first in light machine gun and rifle firing in all the three years.

As a cadet of the Senior Girls Army Wing of the National Cadet Corps she excelled in the Basic Mountaineering Course, Advance Leadership Course and Basic Sum-



## mer Course at various places

Being an active social worker, she has participated in various NSS camps, National Integration Camps and youth projects.

Despite her achievements, she regrets that she has not been able to get a suitable job in the Manipur Government although offers have been pouring in from many other parts of the country. She feels bad about the fact that her State is not even able to provide proper facilities to sportswomen. She had to struggle hard to get to the top. All her savings were spent up in attending coaching camps.

Coming of an orthodox family Sabitri did not get any encouragement from her family members and she secured a diploma from the NIS. Although her four brothers and three sisters are keen sportsmen and sportswomen, they are not much interested in judo and karate.

When asked as to how she benefited from Judo, she replied with a smile that it had helped her to develop her mental faculties and physical agility and instilled in her tremendous amount of self confidence. She strongly feels that judo should be learnt and encouraged more as a sport than as a means of self defence.

Sabitri practises judo every morning for two hours and another two hours in the evening are spent in yoga and meditation.

When asked about her plans to get married, she returned a bashful smile and an evasive reply that once she got married she would have to quit judo for ever.

## Gymnastics coach speaks

**“WOMEN'S** gymnastics should be more popular. The statement was made by none other than the famous gymnast **Larisa Latynina** who in the quarter century of her career won nine gold medals in the Olympic Games and eight in the World Championships.

Today she is the senior coach of the Soviet Women's gymnastics team. She is 47, and has a twenty-year-old grandson. Even at this age she has maintained her energy, charm, slender build, and smart appearance obviously due to the favour-

able influence of gymnastics. **Latynina** makes no secret of the fact that the most thrilling and memorable moments in her life are connected with sports.

I've known the joy of not only individual victories, but also of coaching successes,” she said, adding, “As the senior coach, I've led the women's select of our country out onto the competitive platform in three Olympic tournaments and in two World Championships. There have been amazing performers, like **Natalia Kuchinskaya**, **Olga Katasyova**, **Znaida Voronina**, **Larisa Petrik**, **Lynbov Burda**, **Lyudmila Turtsheva**—it's impossible to name them all. They were the ones who created present day gymnastics, thought up new parts and polished the artistry of execution of perfection. As for complicated routines, **Olga Kulbot** was the pioneer who presented the sport arenas with simply fantastic parts and liaison movements.”

**Latynina** believes that this trend for extremely complicated high-risk gymnastics was the reason for it being predominantly a sport for the very young today. The idea that a ceiling exists for difficult parts in gymnastics has been refuted by 11 and 12 year old performers. The world now sees 14 and 15 year old girls emerging triumphant in the Olympic Games and World Championships. **Larisa Latynina** disclosed the secret of this swift ascent. The training methods have changed considerably. Complicated acrobatics are being encouraged among the girls. A single routine now includes a number of difficult parts, say, two simultaneous somersaults and two Tsukahara versions. But what pleased me is that problems of choreography, composition and artistic impression continue to be the main ones for Soviet coaches, just like in my day. Economy and high standards of artistry have always been inherent in Soviet women gymnasts, and that is one of the main reasons for their achievements.

There is an important question asked by **Lolita Kovaleva**. What do you believe is the main problem in women's gymnastics?

It's problem evoked by the rejuvenation of gymnastics. Naturally, girls can win in major tournaments at the age of 14 but they can really do creative work when they are a bit older. Women's gymnastics should be feminine. At any rate, I don't think it's right to allow girls younger than 15 to compete in the European and World Championships, and the Olympic Games. As a specialist, my wish is that both Soviet and foreign coaches make more extensive use of simulators which make the execution of parts easier and safer. Gymnasts should be groomed first in properly performed basic parts and only later in perfection of execution.

## News round-up

### CRPF win police aquatics

**TRIVANDRUM** C R P F retained the championship in the five day 31st All India Police Aquatic Meet held at the Water Works Swimming Pool. This is the sixth consecutive time that CRPF won the championship. C R P F scored 249 points followed by B S F (174) and Uttar Pradesh (57) for the second and third places respectively. Over 400 swimmers representing 13 teams took part in the meet. The swimming competitions were inaugurated by the Kerala Chief Minister K. Karunakaran.

Dharmpal Tokas of B S F, who set four new meet records won the individual championship securing 56 points. Altogether 11 new records, four of them bettering national marks were set. The first national record being sunk by Inspector Dharmpal Tokas of B S F. He returned in a timing of 4 m 36.5 secs. in 400 m freestyle event and cut 1/10th of a second off the national timing set by Anil Gungu in 1978. Next came the turn of I. J. Jacob of C R P F who bettered his own police meet and national timings by 0.5 secs. and 0.2 secs. respectively when he won the 200 m butterfly event, his previous record being 2 m 21.6 secs. Jacob again improved his own record and national timing in 200 m individual medley returning in a time of 2 m 28.6 secs., his earlier record being 2 m 28.6 secs. The fourth national record fell in the name of C R P F's Circle Inspector Phoube Singh in 200 m breaststroke when he improved his own time of 2 m 40.3 secs. to 2 m 39.5 secs.

Paditha Sharma of C R P F scoring 378.60 points claimed the first place in High Board diving. The divers of CRPF won both the first and second positions in Spring Board diving. Inspector Mahadev Singh Shukhwant took the first place with a tally of 386.40 points. Shaka Singh came second with 364.80 points.

Border Security Force dethroned holders C R P F 87 and won the Water Polo tournament conducted along with the meet. In the semi final C R P F beat Kerala and B S F brushed aside West Bengal. In the losers' final, West Bengal trounced Kerala 8-5 and won the third place.

Meanwhile, the C R P F, led by the 'Indian Zatopek' Harichand, won the 14.5 km cross country championship. Out of the 110 runners from 12 teams 106 finished the race. The team championship was annexed in the event by the C R P F men who secured the minimum

aggregate of 54 points. B S F finished second (76 pts). Mrs Vayalar Ravi, wife of Kerala Home Minister distributed the prizes.

M. P. SURESH

### Records galore

**PANAJI** The third Junior National Powerlifting Championships was successfully organised by Goa, Daman and Diu Weightlifting Association at the Kala Academy Theatre, Panaji, Goa recently. As many as 128 strong young powerlifters from 19 states, participated in the championships. The championships started with the 52 kg class and out of 23 competitors Devender Singh of Bihar, Swapnil Chowdhury of Bengal and Siddhar Mukherjee (Tripura) fought each other to earn gold, silver and bronze medals respectively. Only one national mark was created in this class and this was by Hiralal Ram of Gujarat in the bench press (107.5 kg). In the 56 kg class though there was no new national mark there was keen competition among G. Anantharam (Maharashtra), N. Gowda (Karnataka) and S. P. Agnihotri (Delhi) for achieving gold, silver and bronze medals respectively with a difference of only 2.5 kg in total. In the 60 kg class Sivaprasad G. (Kerala) set up two new national marks in the squat and total and won the gold. Dwaripayan Chakraborty, the Bengal team captain, set up two new national marks in the 60 kg class in squat and total. The 217.5 kg in squat is a new senior national mark. Toranath Mendan (Maharashtra) set up a new national mark in the dead lift (220 kg) defeating his nearest rival M. Nagaraj (Andhra Pradesh). Though P. Venkataswami (Andhra Pradesh) took the fifth position he was still able to break the bench

press mark by lifting 117.5 kg. In 75 kg class P. Damodar (Andhra Pradesh) broke the senior national mark of Uma Kant (Delhi) by 10 kg besides his record total of 545 kg to win the gold. D. Solomon Raju of Andhra Pradesh won the gold medal in 82.5 kg class followed by Ananda and Chandrasekhar of Karnataka. There was only one new national mark (192.5 kg) in squat in the 90 kg class by Jeevan Kumar (Karnataka) who won the gold. Two new national marks (210 kg in squat and 535 kg in total) were set up by S. B. Ghadigaunkar of Maharashtra who won the gold in the 100 kg class. Jagdish Raj (J & K) broke all the four existing national marks i.e. squat (225 kg), bench press (127.5 kg), deadlift (212.5 kg) and total to earn a reputation as a champion powerlifter in the 110 kg class. He was followed by Radhakrishnan (Kerala) and Rajender Singh (Delhi). Goutam Banerjee of Bengal made a total of 420 kg and easily defeated his rival Mathew Polson (Kerala) by 30 kg class.

Bengal was the only state to produce a young student powerlifter Subhendu Bhattacharjee. He appeared in this class with a bodyweight of 145.7 kg. Being trained for a few months he made a total of 300 kg.

In total 22 new national marks were recorded in the said championships. On the concluding day, Shri Harish N. P. Zantye, Honorable Minister for Education, Goa, Daman and Diu presented the Championship Trophy to Bengal team, first with 77 points followed by Maharashtra with 64 points and Kerala with 56 points. Devendar Singh of Bihar was adjudged Junior Strongman of India i.e., Champion of Champions.

MANOJIT BGS



**NO ALLIGATORS INSIDE!** Members of the Special Organising Committee for the Asian Games seen inspecting the stands being raised on the fringe of Ramgarh Lake, venue of the rowing events for the coming Asiad.

## More don'ts than dos

Laws keep changing from time to time. Unlike many other games, laws of cricket are immutable. Apart from the laws, the game is governed by certain conventions also which are as much in vogue as the laws. But cricket is no longer a mere sport. It is an industry and players are therefore, much more professional and assertive in their attitude towards the game than they ought to be. Poor umpires are more on the receiving end now than they were a decade

level out a mistake by deliberately making another. Two wrongs can never make one right and for an umpire to err in this manner must result in the players losing confidence in him. All umpires are human beings, to err is human and no umpire should allow his concentration and attention to be disturbed by undue worry over an unfortunate error.

4 Do not stick to a decision which is wrong. It is specially stated in the laws that an umpire can change a decision,

will be lost to keep the men in white coats in good humour. It will always be beneficial to win the umpire's sympathy and good will.

There are many amusing stories about umpires and players. The story of Jack Hearns, a former England Test cricketer, is worth narrating.

Jack was nervous as a colt, when he waited in the pavilion to make his debut for Middlesex in the County Championship. As he looked pale, tense with pads on and bat by his side, a professional went up to him and dropped a 'valuable' hint for him. That piece of advice impressed the youngster. "Now," said the professional, "when you go to the wicket, try and be pleasant to the umpires. Don't hesitate to say 'Good morning'."

Jack Hearns walked in and asked the umpires to give him 'guard.' While the umpire was performing his duty, Jack gave him a grin, nodded and said "Good morning, how do you do?" "Excellent", replied the umpire adding "Three more decisions and I'll have given a hundred batsmen out this season."

There is another amusing story. This time the player had the last laugh. A batsman, known for humour, 'took the wind completely out of the sails of our umpire, who claimed to know all about umpiring.'

The batsman walked in and was

instantaneously ready to play. The umpire intervened and asked the batsman "I say, don't you want guard?"

"The batsman appeared bewildered, then disappointed, and replied 'No, thank you. I played in this match last year and took it then!'

"One of the celebrated and controversial Test stars of India was summoned by Vizzy to lead UP in the Ranji Trophy. In a match against Rajasthan, a youngster was howling his heart out and

appeal and up went the umpire's finger. Here are some problems.

Q Will the wicket be considered as down, if a ball, while falling, lodges between two stumps?

A Yes. According to laws, the wicket has been broken and the batsman is deemed as out.

Q During a lunch break it is realised by the fielding side that the batsman had smacked the last ball on which they failed to appeal. Can the fielding side appeal after lunch before the com-



or two ago. There are much more "don'ts" than "dos" to be followed by umpires. Some of the important don'ts suggested by R. S. Renukar, former secretary of the MCC, are:  
1 Do not be prompted by the behaviour of the players to indicate disapproval by any gesture, even in the most extreme cases.

2 Do not be influenced by the volume and confidence of an appeal and equally important, do not disregard even a half hearted appeal.

3 Do not attempt to

provided he does so immediately.

5 Do not hesitate to consult a colleague if he is in a better position to observe the essential points of an incident. It is a characteristic of the best umpires to pause over their decisions, but, having made up their mind, they give their answers definitely and firmly.

Players, aware of their financial gain based on their performance, try to keep the men in white coats in good humour. The consequence is that nothing



heat one of Rajasthan's early batsmen and appealed.

The celebrated skipper went rushing to the youngster and scolded him for making such a foolish appeal. "Please, for God's sake, appeal only when necessary," he advised his team-mate.

"The umpire took notice of it. Vijay Manjrekar was at his dazzling best when he was wrapped up in the pads by a ball, which was going away. But the celebrated skipper made a vociferous

mentence of the first ball."

A No. Such an appeal could have been entertained if the time had not been called.

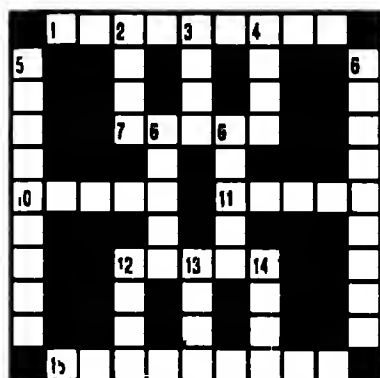
Q Five minutes before the scheduled resumption of play, the batting side captain declares the innings closed. When will the game resume?

A Ten minutes of change over, including seven minutes' rolling will have to be provided to the opposite side. That means the match will resume five minutes after the scheduled start.

# Crossword

MUDAR

158



## CROSS

- 1 Another young female prodigy in the tennis world ends in a male issue (1)
- 2 Sibba Row former English cricketer and an Indian scientist have something to share (5)
- 3 A New Zealand cricketer begins with a barracking (5)
- 4 A villa but not Ricardo (5)
- 5 Mrs Turnbull of the tennis world (5)
- 6 Boycott partnered him while setting up a new batting record for Yorkshire for the last wicket (9)

## DOWN

- 2 This Singh was a great bowler for India years ago (4)
- 3 The youngest competitor to break a world record in any sport comes up (4)
- 4 This troupe is the latter part of a football team for which Bolham plays. The club's first four alphabets are? (4)
- 5 One of the very few players to have hit centuries at Lords in a Test on different overseas trips (4,5)
- 6 John McEnroe and this person are going to produce a musical record on Wimbledon (5, 4)
- 8 Apart from being known as Rags, Randall is also known as? (5)
- 9 A Test cricketer has a conflict in between (1, 4)
- 12 A ball that cannot be easily reached by the batsman (4)
- 13 A game of - pins (4)
- 14 These are also sometimes used for races through water (4)

Excellent 16—15, Good 14—13, Fair 12—11.

# Question box

Subhash Maitra, Prasann Maitra, Keesha

Q When, where and against whom did Gavaskar make his Test debut and how many runs did he make in both the innings of that Test match?

A Gavaskar made his Test debut in the second Test against the West Indies at Port-of-Spain in 1970-71, when he made 65 and 67 not out

Partha Pratim Pal, Calcutta

Q Could you please give me the West Indies bowling figures against England in the second innings of the third Test at Bridgetown in 1981?

A Roberts 20-6-42-1, Holding 19-6-46-2, Croft 19-1-65-3, Garner 16-2-6-39-2 and Richards 17-6-24-2.

Sharmila Guha, Bhubaneswar

Q Is 274 by Zaheer Abbas his highest score in Tests?

A Yes

Q Who partnered Gavaskar in his first Test appearance in 1970-71?

A Ashok Mankad

Q What is the highest score by an Indian nightwatchman in a Test?

A 101 not out by S M H Kirmani in the sixth Test against Australia at Bombay in 1979-80

Imdadullah Ansari, Qazipura

Q When, where and against whom did Botham of England start his Test career?

A In the third Test against Australia at Nottingham in 1977

Sushil Jain, Ranchi

Q Which of the following are counted as first-class cricket matches— One-day internationals, Wills Trophy and the Deodhar Trophy

A None

Vinod B, Shimoga

Q What is the cost of a Test cricket ball?

A Anything up to Rs 100

Premod Malshe, Bombay

Q Please give me the scorecard of New Zealand when she was dismissed for 26 in the second innings against England

at Auckland in 1954-55

A. B. Sutcliffe—b Wardle 11, J G Leggat—c Hutton b Tyson 1, M B Roore—b Tyson 0, J R Reid—b Statham 1, S N McGreggor—c May b Appleyard 1, G O Rabone—(Capt) lbw Statham 7, H B Cave—c Graveney b Appleyard 5, A R Macgibbon—lbw Appleyard 0, A Colquhoun—c Graveney b Appleyard 0, A M Moor—not out 0, J A Hayes—b Statham 0 Total 26

Javed Akhtar, Saharanpur

Q What is B S Bedi's highest score in first-class cricket?

A. Sixty one in the Ranji Trophy as well as in the County Cricket Championship in England. He made 61 against Jammu & Kashmir at Snnagar in 1970-71 and for Northamptonshire versus Gloucestershire in 1974 at Northampton

# Quiz

Barjit Gh.

## QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the only instance of brothers playing on the losing side in a World Cup soccer final?
- 2 Who is the only Dane to be crowned the European Footballer of the Year?
- 3 And who is the only Czech to get the honour?
- 4 How many players have won the European Footballer of the Year award more than once?
- 5 Which weekly names the European Footballer of the Year and gives him the Golden Ball award?
- 6 What is the Golden Boot? Who awards it?
- 7 Who won the Golden Boot last year?
- 8 Which international football star had three of his four cartilages removed when he was seventeen?
- 9 Which player of Italy's 1982 World Cup winning team was born on All Fools Day?
- 10 In Spain a trophy named after a legendary player, is annually awarded to the best player in that position. What is it?

## ANSWERS

- 1 Famous international goalkeeper Zamora trophy named after Spain's
- 2 Giancarlo Antognoni
- 3 Paolo Rossi
- 4 Georgi Stankov (Bulgaria)
- 5 European Championship
- 6 Football to the highest scorer in the
- 7 It is the trophy awarded by France
- 8 France Football
- 9 (1980, 1981)
- 10 and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge
- 1 (1974) Kevin Keegan (1978, 1979)
- 2 (1976) Johan Cruyff (1971, 1973)
- 3 (1959) Franz Beckenbauer (1972)
- 4 Five Alfredo Di Stefano (1957)
- 3 Josef Masopust (1962)
- 2 Allan Simonsen (1977)
- 1 Argentina in 1978
- 1 W Van der Kerkhof and R Van der Kerkhof played for Holland against

## SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 157

G I L L H H A R D  
E O I

I N L  
S L A M D L A K E



**Q** What was Kapil Dev's score in the second innings of the fourth Test against England at The Oval in 1979?

**A** Zero

**A** At the end of the England-Sri Lanka Test series the following bowlers had captured 100 or more wickets in Tests for England F S Trueman (307), D L Underwood (289) J B Statham (252), R G D Willis (242), A V Bedser (236), I T Botham (219) J A Snow (202), C C Laker (193) S F Barnes (189) G A R Lock (174) M W Tate (155) F J Titmus (153) H Verity (144) C M Old (143), A W Greig (141) E Bailey (132) W Rhodes (127) D A Allen (122), R Illingworth (122), J Briggs (118), G Arnold (115), G A A Lohmann (112) D V P Wright (108), R Peel (102), J H Wardlaw (102) and C Blythe (100)

**A 4,399 runs, with 187 as his highest and with 44.43 as the average**

Solution to No 1185 (Kush) (4R2/6B1:3p4  
3P1R1/1N1P3/2p1K2/2Q2/4/1q2BK1 - mate  
in two) 1 B - R6 (threat ? kt Kb ta) 1  
Kt x B Pch 2 Kt x Kt (L) 1 Kt x KP 2 Q Kb2  
(c) 1 R x P 2 Q - R7 (d) 1 Q x P 2  
Kt - B2



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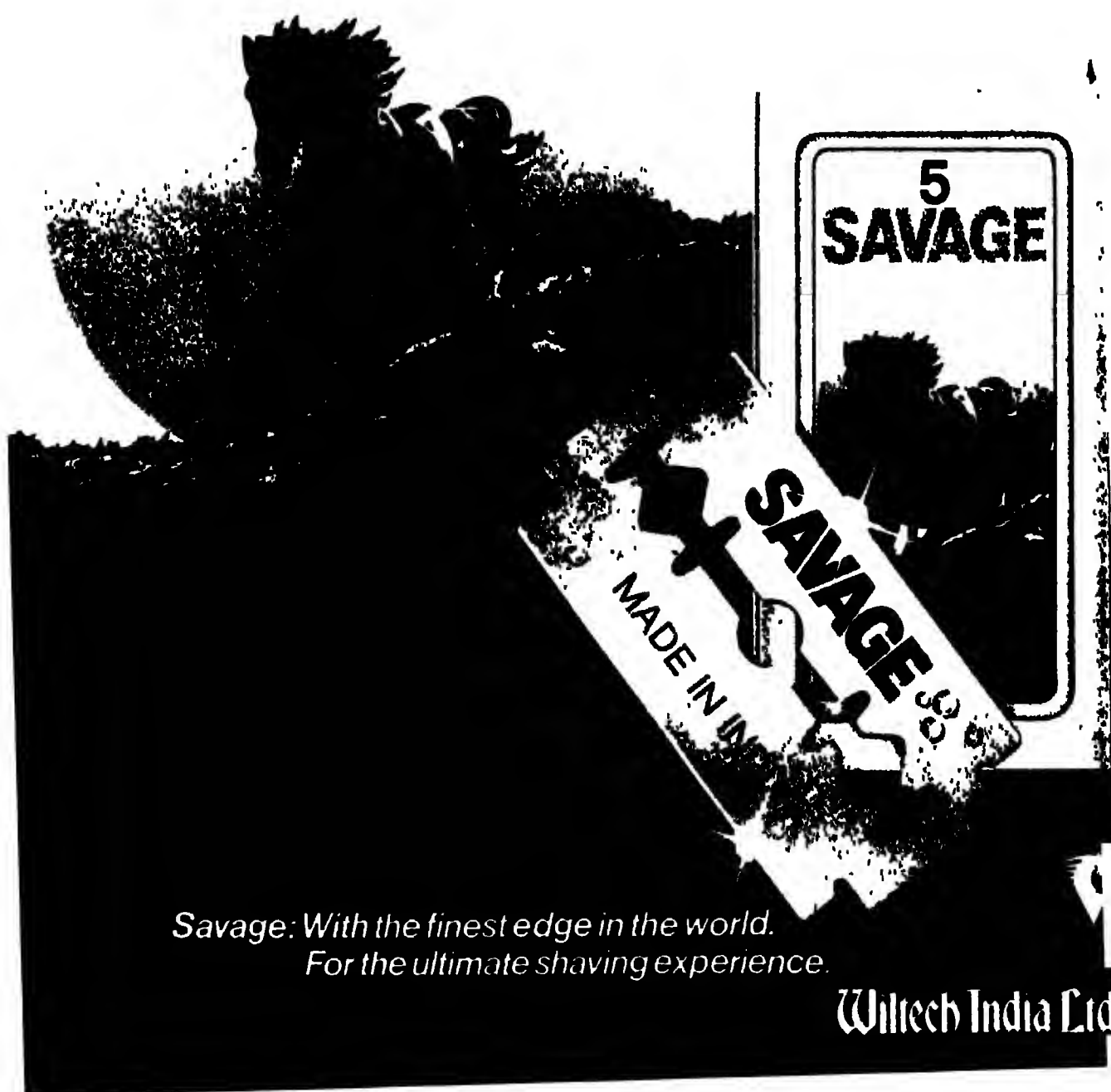
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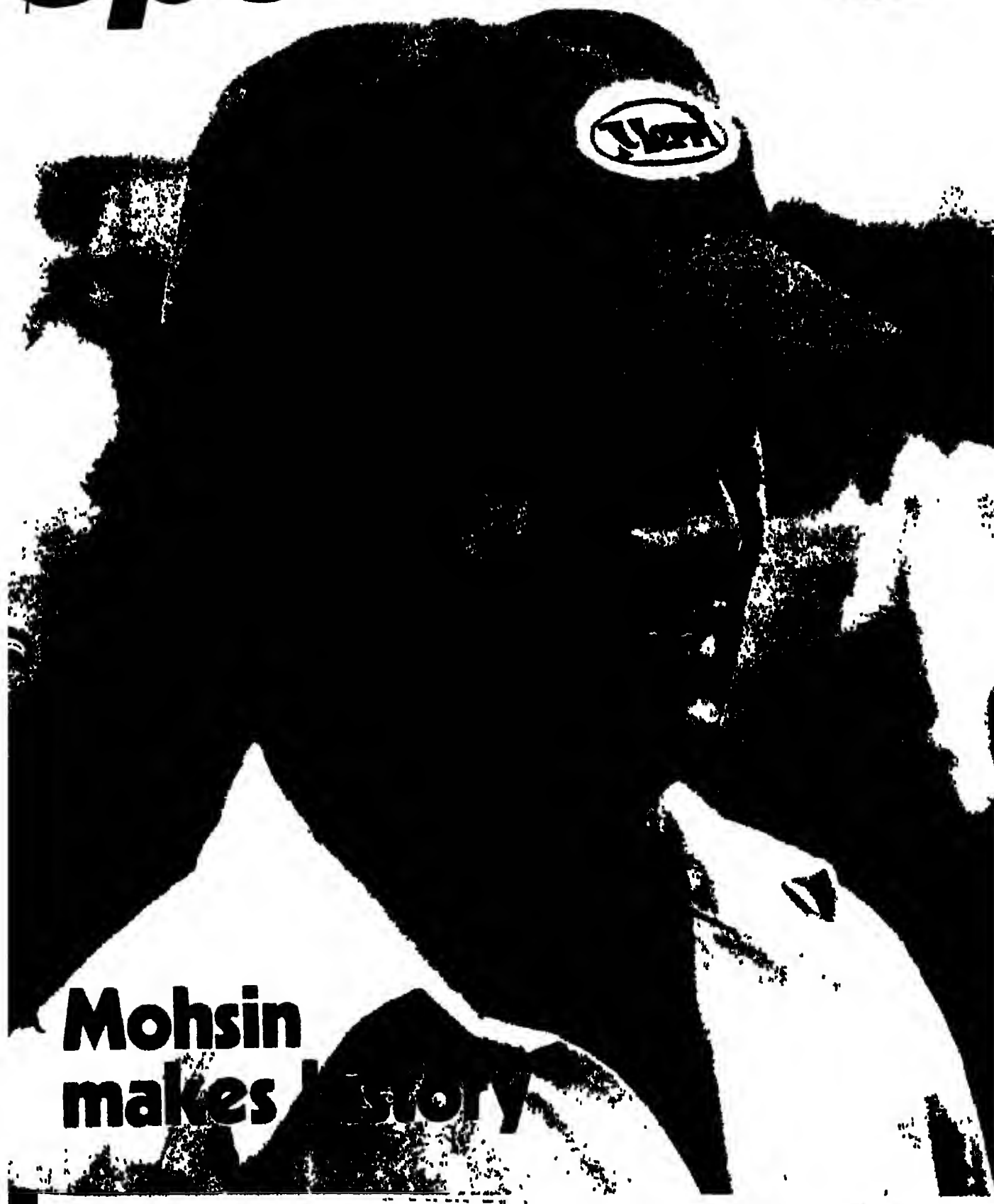
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# Sportsworld



**Mohsin  
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Will you let your daughter  
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**Editor** Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

**Associate Editor** Arjit Sen  
**Chief Sub Editor** David McMahon  
**Editorial Staff** Subhash Sarcar  
**Correspondents** Bombay: Harsh Munwani, Madras: Ashok Kamath  
**Staff Photographer** Nikhil Bhattacharya  
**Art Director** Bipin Gupta

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## Letters to the Editor

### Not ashamed

**T**ILL now I had always felt ashamed about the South Indians. But after reading the 11 August issue of *Sportsworld* I was convinced that we are mainly a maligned lot.

Thanks to T. E. Srinivasan for proving that the South Indians are not toothless tigers. After reading the article it seems even more certain that he will not be selected to play against Sri Lanka or be taken to Pakistan. Even then, the interview was a pleasure.

V. S. SURESH,  
Madras

### No such incident

**P**LEASE refer to your article on the Calcutta Football League published in the *Sportsworld* of the 4 August, 1982 issue (page 32, last paragraph of the second column).

While reviewing the proceedings of the Mohun Bagan versus Wari match, your reporter has stated the paragraph mentioned above with "Referee Milan Datta made a glaring mistake on the day." Incidentally, it may be mentioned that I was not the referee on that day nor was I linesman for the match. It may be pointed out that I supervised the Mohun Bagan versus Bata S C game, which has been reviewed in the same issue but in that match no such incident occurred.

MILAN DATTA (Retiree),  
Calcutta

### Superb

**A**FTER seeing the remarkable coverage of the recently concluded World Cup Football '82 in your magazine I am compelled to say that it was really wonderful. It was a busy time for *Sportsworld* readers to do justice to the superb reporting of the world's biggest soccer

event. Though our national side did not participate in the tournament your magazine's coverage was truly marvellous. On behalf of all the readers of *Sportsworld* let me congratulate the periodical and its staff for this.

LALITA ARFI,  
Patna

### Best football XI

**A**LTER having seen some interesting matches of the World Cup '82 I think that the best eleven should comprise the following players: Dasayev (Russia), Collavati (Italy), Luizinho (Brazil), Junior (Brazil), Socrates (Brazil), Gonzales (El Salvador), Platini (France), Zico (Brazil), Rossi (Italy) and Rummenigge (West Germany). I think that the captain should be Socrates and the manager Enzo Bea. If the team plays according to a 4-3-3 combination it can take on any side in the world.

SANTANU SIKDAR,  
Bijoygarh

### Move afoot

**R**EPORTEDLY a move is afoot (engineered by the North India lobby) to depose Bhaskar Ganguli from the captaincy of the Indian soccer team and install Harjinder Singh instead.

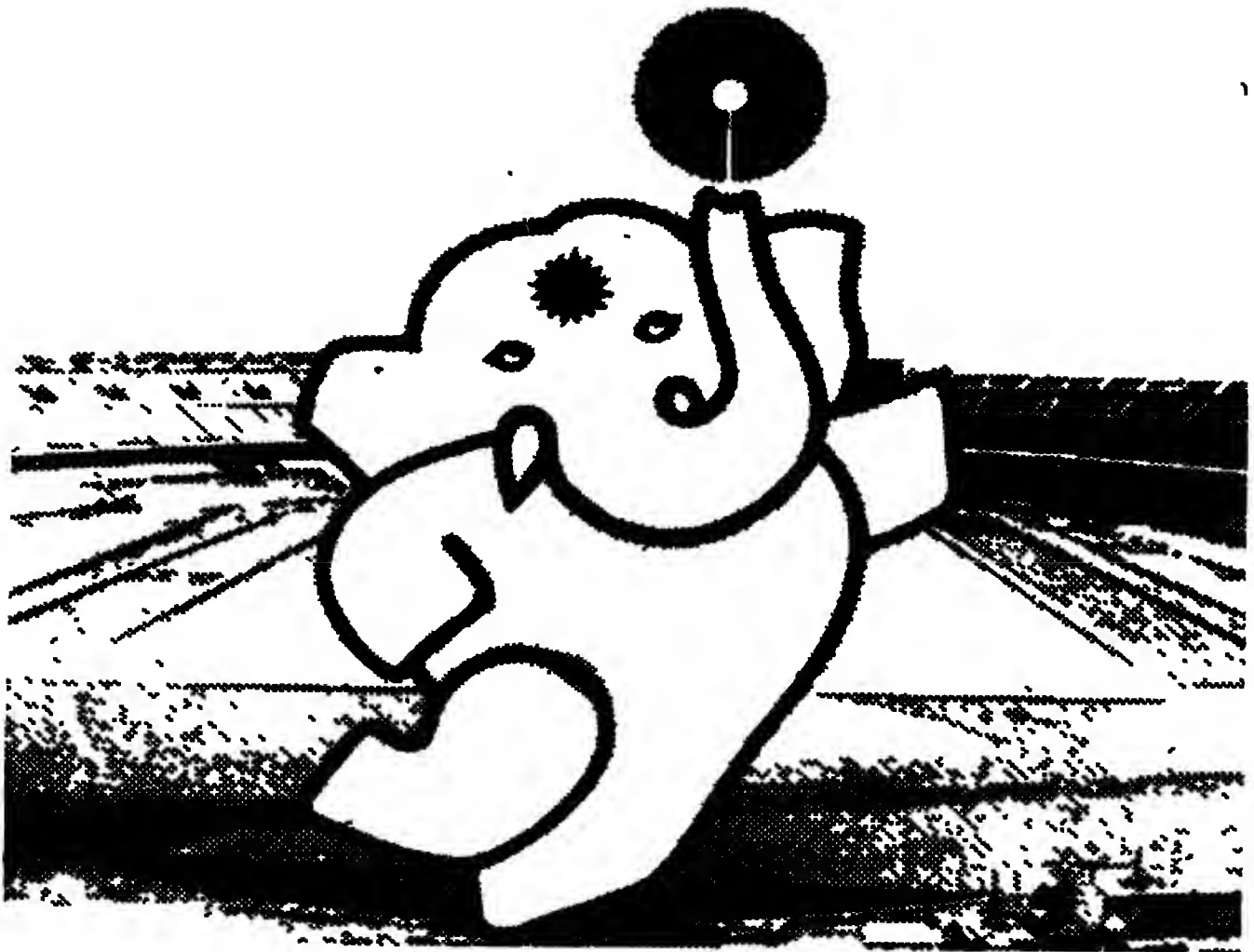
Football enthusiasts should be informed that there have been exemplary instances of international teams being led from behind. I am mentioning Lev Yashin, Sepp Maier, Dino Zoff and Rudolfo Rodricks to name a few.

S. P. MANJULI,  
Residence not stated

### Final say

**T**HE only 'leg break' bowler in the world and Abdul Qadir? You probably haven't heard of Sunil Gavaskar!

SUNIL SHAH,  
Raipur.



## **My 'Village' Hero**

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# The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tam Forman

## HOW'S THAT BABY?

**California:** Here are some facts worth figuring June Irwin, was 3½ mths pregnant when she won the bronze medal for platform diving in the 1952 Summer Olympics

Andrea Mead Lawrence was in her first trimester of pregnancy when she won two golds for alpine racing in the 1952 Winter Olympics

Wendy Boglioli an Olympic track champ was in the 5th month when she competed in the 100yd freestyle in 1978 Mary Jones was 8 mths pregnant when she ran the 13.1 mile Dallas White Rock Marathon in 1976!

## WHAT'S UP, DOE?

**Houston:** Armed with playing cards, dice, dominoes, a human skull and an uncooked chicken, a Ugandan witch doctor vowed to invest his compatriot Ayub Kalule with mystical powers to return his World Boxing Association junior middleweight championship title versus Sugar Ray Leonard. Clad in a red and yellow robe and a conical-shaped cap adorned with ostrich feathers, the medicine man rolled the dice over the playing cards, rattled the human skull and waved the chicken about triumphantly as a symbolic omen of victory

## DOING A DOUBLE

**Cornwall:** Identical twins Martin and Mark Jones (19) came first in a sailing race with exactly the same timing. They shared the first prize

## IN A LIGHTER VEIN

**New Orleans:** Former lightweight champ Archie Moore on why he accepts invitations to speak at prisons "Because no one walks out in the middle of my speech"

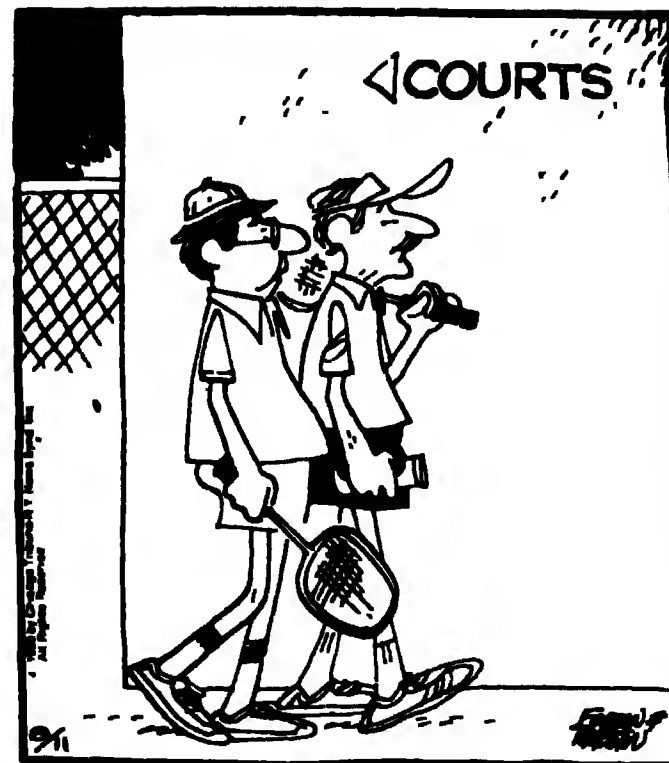
## BERNIE TELLIS



"I HATE AUGUST!"



"DADDY'S GONNA START A FIRE BY RUBBIN' TWO STICKS TOGETHER!"



"NEWS OF MY WIFE'S DEATH REACHED ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIRST SET... NEEDLESS TO SAY IT AFFECTED MY GAME FOR THE REST OF THE MATCH!"

# ASIAD VENUES

ASIAN GAMES 1982

## Talkatora Indoor Stadium has a seating snag

**T**HE Talkatora Indoor Stadium was constructed in 1975 and has been renovated for staging the Ninth Asian Games basketball event (both men and women). This is the second project of the New Delhi Municipal Committee. The estimated cost on this project is Rs 48 lakhs. The indoor stadium has seating accommodation for only 2,500 which is too inadequate for this event. Even at a local basketball final one finds a crowd ranging between 5,000 and 6,000. During the Asiad when giant tournaments are expected, not less than a 10,000 crowd

is forced to admit that basketball does not have the same level of spectator interest as football, but does that mean that the organisers receive this kind of treatment? This would clearly seem to indicate that it is either the result of faulty planning or that someone is clamping down on the sport. The former explanation seems more plausible, but one thing is for sure there are going to be several disappointed basketball fans at Delhi this

year. The cream of Asian basketball is going to be on display in our capital, but those who want to see them in action will have to be content with following the game on television.

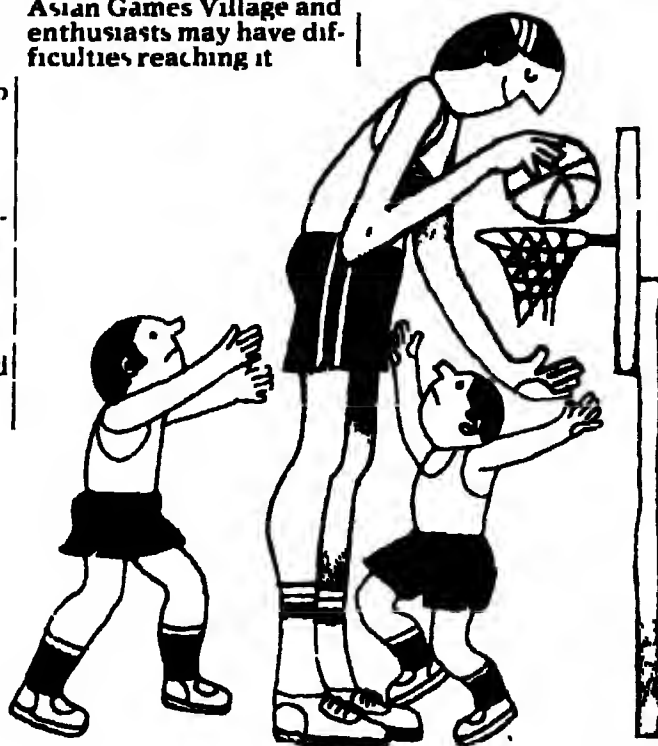
The lighting inside the stadium has been raised from 400 lux to 1,000 lux (horizontal) by installing the latest powerful Halogen lights. A separate warm-up area has been provided for the competitors, complete with a wooden court. There has been re-flooring with seasoned teakwood of the main wooden court inside the stadium. New fibreglass boards have been installed.

An electronic scoreboard will be provided by Seiko (Japan). A generating set has been kept as a standby to avoid chaos in case of failure of main supply. The present arrangement of benches has been provided with proper wooden backing. The audio arrangement has been completely replaced. The covered space available in seating tiers is being utilised for providing accommodation for various

facilities meant for the general public, players and different agencies involved in the conducting of the games. The changing-rooms for players have been renovated. Separate accommodation is being provided for the Press, AIR, P and T, Doordarshan and Films Division. A separate enclosure has been carved out for VIPS and participants.

Mikasa balls will be used and Seiko will be the official timers. The competition will run for 14 days from November 20 to December 3. The timings for matches will be 9.00 to 12.00 hours and 13.00 to 22.00 hours. This stadium is 14 kilometres from the Asian Games Village and enthusiasts may have difficulties reaching it.

Though basketball is not a mandatory sport, it has found a prominent place in all the Asian Games held thus far. The Talkatora Indoor Stadium will be fully air conditioned. The work of providing additional rooms, improvement of toilet blocks, renovation of the entire wooden flooring of the stadium, corridors, dormitories etc. have been completed. The improvement to the lighting has also been completed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.5 lakhs. Mr P. N. Bahl, Administrator, New Delhi Municipal Committee, in a simple function organised on June 11, 1982, inaugurated the lighting of the stadium.



**DUNLO.**

*lead the way*

# More spirited displays will seldom be seen

**DAVID GOWER** takes time off and sneaks in on some other sporting events on the television and then bats a little, too

**W**ITH all the recent rain, we have all perhaps had more time than was ideal to think about things. Though if you happen to be in the same dressing-room as Ian Botham when he gets bored watching it rain, you are probably not in the best spot for a little quiet cogitation.

Naturally, at Manchester, in just this situation, there were a few discussions solely on cricket matters. 'What's the plan, Goose?' 'But on, I reckon, I do.' 'Can't fault it, Goose.' But with the amount of ensuing rain there is a limit to the number of times one can go through that sort of deep thinking, and so people have to diversify into other topics.

Fortunately the month also featured rain at Wimbledon and, happily, sun in Spain, not to mention some slightly mediocre weather in California for the US Open. Cricketers normally consider themselves well qualified to comment and criticise all other sports, especially after our own efforts on respective courts, courses and other sporting arenas around the world.

Ian Botham, of course, hits tennis balls and golf balls with the same exuberance as he strikes the cricket ball. He possesses two of the most contrasting serves in amateur tennis: the first might test some of those folk we watched at Wimbledon, but the second is more of a forward poke designed to ensure that the ball has the maximum chance of hitting the target hut with no pretensions to beating the receiver for pace. His first choice partner on court in previous tours, Geoff Miller (together they like to be known as Higgs and Hill, for a number of reasons), brings a certain consistency to their doubles play, not to mention a certain touch. They have not been without success, though perhaps a Willis-Gower combination might prevail. Consider that a challenge.

Back to Wimbledon. We'd all rather watch the men slogging it round the court and clucking up the code violations, racquet abuse, etc. Mind you, there seemed to be little less enthusiasm for watching the women, even if conversation became



*Kapil Dev—great series for him*

wider ranging at those times. We even joined in the commentators' discussions as to when charts were provided for the players on court as we watched the re-run of the Smith-Nastase final. Meanwhile, I have yet to see this year's final until I can get the video back. The right man won.

The World Cup also eased any nonplaying frustrations. Returning for a moment to the Leicestershire dressing room—that is all they think I ever do anyway—hence the usual enquiries whether I have come for a trial and offers to show me round the ground and introduce me to the office staff—you do find a mixture of approaches, starting with the edu-

cated opinion such as one might expect from an exprofessional footballer like Chris Balderstone who can normally communicate sensibly on these matters with captain Roger Tolchard, and the likes of John Steele and Ken Higgs. At the other end of the scale you can rely on Gordon Parsons to air the most obscure views on the matter—and every other matter if you give him time. And if you can get away from his deaf side, Les Taylor will offer you something straight from the heart of the County.

Personally, one of the most typical memories of this World Cup is of the slowmotion replay of a German being louted and managing to roll and roll and roll till you thought he could not have a decent roll left in him but no. The biggest disappointments had to be seeing the Brazilians beaten by the Italians, as well as the departure of our own lads.

As far as the golf is concerned, our enforced absence from the semi-finals of the Benson & Hedges allowed us onto the Leicestershire course to do battle with the hand-picked representatives of Camber International. Of particular needle was the contest between our gorilla and theirs. All that means is that they had someone who might once have outdriven Brian Dawson but not any more, as Dave took up the challenge admirably and consistently left his pinnacle past his opponent's ball on the fairway. Leicestershire happily won the match 1-1 with Dave and myself triumphing on the 18th. Golf seems to be one of our breed's favourite relaxations.

As is normal, despite all this wholesome relaxation, we still have a certain amount of cricket to play when the weather allows, and at Old Trafford both sides produced a fair amount of entertaining cricket. At Test level you will not see many more spirited displays than those of Ian Botham, Sandeep Patil and Kapil Dev. The greatest shame is the lack of people who were there to see those contributions, though it is possible to understand folk not trusting the weather. With one remaining Test against the Indians and the three to come against Pakistan it would be a great boost for us in particular to see more people in the stands. We may not be playing the Australians this year but if the same sort of crowds were present at least it would feel like it, and the cricket would reflect that. Whenever the atmosphere is there, players raise themselves above their normal attitude—but when the stands are empty all the atmosphere has to come from within.

I suppose we shall just have to think of all those folks switching on at home and passing the same sort of comments as we on Connors, Shilton or Nicklaus.

COURTESY WISDEN CRICKET MONTHLY \*

SECOND CORNHILL ENGLAND-PAKISTAN TEST

# PAKISTAN EQUALISE

Pakistan made history by beating England for the first time in 28 years and the sins of the first Test appeared forgiven. Mohsin Khan hit an unbelievable 200, the wily Qadir kept down the scoring and Mudassar chipped in with six wickets to make it a Test to remember. PAUL FITZPATRICK reports

**D**AVID GOWER will not remember his first day as England's captain with an excess of affection. Pakistan made considerable reparation for their batting lapses in the first Test at Edgbaston and with Mohsin Khan playing fluently, stylishly and confidently for an undeterred 159 ended the first day of the second Cornhill Test at Lord's at 295 for three a mountainous total looked like looming before English eyes.

There was not a great deal Gower could do about it. His first misfortune on finding himself deputising for the unfit Willis was to lose the toss. There cannot have been many easier paced Lord's wickets this season, very occasionally a ball would keep low but with the bounce consistent and movement through the air and off the seam minimal batting was a luxury to be indulged in.

Not was Gower helped by the modest attack at his disposal and without Willis England looked ordinary. Jackman came in for Willis and tried hard as he always does. But Lord's was not one of his great wicket-taking grounds. Jackman had only to wait five deliveries for his first wicket in Test cricket in the West Indies last year and success came slightly less quickly on the first day. But after having Mudassar caught low by Taylor his chief contributions to the day were his scurrying energy and a number of bellicose shouts for leg before though none gained a sympathetic hearing.

If Gower made a mistake at all it was, perhaps, to bowl Botham too much since the man's appetite for work is insatiable since he is England's main strike bowler and since he prefers to bowl in long spells this was forgivable. But with the England attack much of a muchness Gower might have been wiser to employ him in shorter shifts.

Hemmings, the only alternative to the diet of medium-paced seam, strove for line and length, earned respect but caused no insuperable problems. And if the rub of the green went against Pakistan at Birmingham it was certainly in their favour this day which should teach them

that disappointments tend to equal out.

All the marginal leg-before shouts went in their favour and on an undistinguished day for English outcricket four chances, one of them extremely difficult, were bungled.

Mudassar the less flamboyant partner, in an indecently brisk opening stand of 53 was missed by Taylor off Botham. That was not to prove such an expensive blunder. The chance that Pringle fumbled when Mohsin had reached 72 was a straightforward catch to trust slip again off Botham's bowling.

Mohsin gave another extremely difficult caught and bowled chance to Jackman soon after reaching his second Test century and then Tavare failed to hold a sharp chest-high chance offered by Zaheer off Pringle with Zaheer looking in ominously good form that too proved an expensive lapse.

Although Pakistan took full advantage of modest bowling and an inviting pitch there were still signs that their biggest enemy is themselves. Mohsin from the first ball of the day, when he struck Botham all along the ground straight for four, played beautifully showing a preference for the leg side but producing strokes all round the wicket but there were times when he had to struggle with his own impetuosity.

There was the occasionally risky swish outside the off stump and a desire to attempt foolhardy runs when he was 96 and in reach of that coveted hundred he went in search of a nonexistent run, had to turn and scurry to recover, is crease. But he would still have been run out if Gatting's throw from square leg had not missed the wicket by a fraction.

His few precradilloes apart, Mohsin looked a batsman of undoubted quality. He frequently leapt across to the off to force the ball square through midwicket or widish mid on. But he is no exclusive legside player. If England bowled at him on the off he would hit powerfully through the covers or cut forcefully. If England have cause to regret their lost opportunities they should

also be grateful that Mansoor and Javed Miandad missed their wickets away. Mansoor had shared a second wicket stand off 144 with Mohsin when he pulled a long hop from Botham straight to Lamb at mid on, Javed's departure being even more unnecessary, run out when attempting to take a second run that simply did not exist.

**P**AKISTAN did not turn the screw on England quite as painfully as they might have done on the second day of the Lord's Cornhill Test. Bad light in the morning and heavy rain in the afternoon was a hindrance to the tourists but even though three hours were lost the addition of 133 runs for the loss of five more wickets must have fallen short of Imran Khan's ambitious.

England, assuming that they can capture the last two wickets with reasonable speed, did not need to score greatly in excess of 200 to save the follow on and on this amiable wicket it should not have proved too difficult and if they had save the follow on they would have saved the game.

It was a shame that the weather should turn so perverse on a day when Lord's was full but at least, the many spectators who remained until the extended hour of seven o'clock had the pleasure of sharing a rare moment, that of Mohsin Khan becoming only the eighth player to score a double hundred at Lord's in a Test. He was out immediately after reaching this lordly target but no matter he now finds himself in the company of Bradman, Hammond, Hobbs, Compton, Brown, Hardstaff and Donnelly, the last man to score 200 at Lord's being way back in 1949.

It is doubtful, however, if any of the members of this exclusive club were forced to wait so long to achieve their double hundreds. At lunch Mohsin had reached 193 in the 20 minutes and after lunch he moved to 199 and then just before the rain set in Pringle bowled him a maiden over and he was condemned to a wait of four hours before he was able to resume.

At last he made it, turning Botham off his hips and running joyously for the single, holding his bat in two hands above his head as he did so. Only Zaheer, his partner, in a fourth wicket stand of 153 has made a double hundred in Tests for Pakistan against England and it seemed appropriate that Mohsin should now have joined him.

Zaheer was launched brilliantly upon the English public at Birmingham in 1971. Mohsin's development has been slightly slower and less spectacular but it will be a surprise if we have not witnessed here the emergence of a singular new talent.

Zaheer played some exquisite strokes when Pakistan resumed at 295 for three and quickly reached his 50. Mohsin took such a liking to Pringle's howling that he took 14 runs off one over but in spite of such embarrassments England and the willing Jackman especially could feel reasonably gratified with their efforts although a flurry of strokes from Wasim Bari and Abdul Qadir brought a late muting to English optimism.

The last surprise came when Zaheer was beaten by a ball from Jackman which pitched off and hit off somehow squeezing between bat and pad. That was followed almost immediately by the fall of Haroon Rashid, beaten on the front foot by Botham and adjudged leg before by umpire Constant on this easy paced pitch. The fall of wickets had scarcely entered the calculations and now here were two gone in successive overs.

Another wicket was not to fall until much later in the pale sunlight of the evening but that was the dictate of the weather not the pitch or the Pakistani batsmen. After reaching that high quality double hundred Mohsin—an obviously composed man but perhaps, just briefly allowing his concentration to wander—flicked loosely at Jackman and was caught comfortably at square leg.

Three deliveries later, the deserving Jackman secured another wicket when he bowled a slower ball at Naqqash, induced a false stroke and Gatting took a comfortable catch trotting from mid off. Pakistan clearly wanted runs quickly but the hint of anxiety in their batting persisted when Imran drove at Botham and gave Taylor a low catch. England at that stage possibly held ambitions of cleaning up the innings before the close but Wasim and Qadir remained together until the end—confidently and profitably so.

**PAKISTAN'S** torch in quest for victory flamed up in a greater effulgence by the end of the third day with England panting hard at 226 for nine wickets. A couple more or a couple away from the target would have represented two entirely different possibilities but Gower

must have taken solace in the fact that Gatting, due to take the strike first thing on the fourth morning, was batting with 31 and a boundary from him or Jackman and the Test could be saved.

The day for England opened up with Tavaré bringing up the first dismissal, playing back to Sarfraz, getting an edge and the ball rolling on to his stumps. But that did not call up the brakes for England as Lamb and Randall showed their healthy scorn and the 50 of the innings was already up in 49 minutes. Randall, who had been playing a thoroughly sketchy innings, soon went for 29, another Sarfraz victim, getting the inside edge of an inscutter and being bowled.

Allan Lamb was at that time doing rather well for himself, entrenching himself and interspersing his strokes with a remarkable grit in defence. But to heighten England's wheeze further he went, making the unpardonable error of extending his bat well ahead of the line of his front pad. Haroon at short leg held on and the fervent chanting of immigrants just below the Grandstand acquired a greater pitch.



Chris Tavaré—sent minds back to Bailey

Meanwhile, Gower at the end was sailing in for heavy weather. Normally, his way of pacing things leaves little to be desired but on this occasion his tendency to be foot-tied looked more pronounced and the runs painfully stopped. He took an age to get into double figures—the captaincy seemed to be already showing the effects—and his first boundary came after nigh 200 minutes.

Botham at the other end for once seemed robbed of his aggression, the Pakistan bowling going on a strict economy squeeze. Botham, though not greatly uncomfortable but absolutely reticent could try little apart from piercing Naqqash through the covers a couple of times. He had come in after Gower but raced past his skipper in comparative flurry. But a change in sides by Qadir probably upset him, and the spinner resorting to round the wicket had Botham heaving to square leg where Mohsin Khan added one more to his

achievements for Pakistan in the Test. Now the fight was hotting up and especially so when Gower after an age fell, caught Imran bowled Mohsin.

Gatting was expected to go early but this was one occasion in Tests when he rooted himself in, watching his partners wilt. It was Derek Pringle to go first making yet no impression on the critic Qadir, shifted by now to the Nursery End. Had Pringle nabbed at short leg and some time later, it was Ian Greig trapped plumb before one that kept low.

The tension was really mounting as England made their progress towards that magic mark of survival but the wickets kept going. Not that Hemmings did much to stem the rot and when within shying distance Sarfraz accounted for him, clean bowled.

Usually in times when runs are most desperately required, or even a hanger-on for that matter, you could safely rely on Bob Taylor. But here, he fumbled and his erring limb was very much in the way and the wily Qadir had done it again. Now only a handful separated a draw and England with Gatting taking charge of one end. He had displayed guts in great amount and for once showed the fibre of which he is made, not too greatly exhibited at Test level.

**ENGLAND** were some way away from saving the Test but not so distant as when they were nine for three in their second innings after following on 201 runs in arrears of Pakistan at the close of the fourth day. England were 95 for three and needed another 106 to make the tourists bat again and if England had ever saved this game they would have owed a debt to the weather. Pakistan at a crucial time on the Friday of the Test were denied batting opportunities and the day before rain, after a morning that promised the most peasant of days, halted their bowlers in full cry. The players came out after lunch but were immediately driven back to the pavilion because of bad light and were then forced to remain indoors until 5.30 p.m. Pakistan's frustration was understandable. The Lord's Test is blighted, it rarely passes without interruption from the weather or by disturbance from controversy of one sort or another. The third day produced another umpiring incident when David Constant invoked law 42 after Qadir's near-demented appeal for leg before against Botham was rejected. Then last night the umpires were involved in more contention over the light. Play appeared to have ended for the day soon after 7 p.m. but with spectators demanding action and after a great deal of procrastination and the holding aloft of light meters the umpires ordered a restart which lasted just one over. Cricket's ability for holding itself up to self ridicule



shows no signs of ending but these incidents apart this has been a fine Test so far and England's recovery yesterday, wrought by Botham and Tavaré provided another gripping episode in what has been a riveting contest

Speculation as to whether England would save the follow on was quickly settled when play resumed at Saturday night's score of 226 for nine. Gattling took a single off Imran's first over and it proved to be a mistake. The last ball of the over trapped Jackman leg before and England by two runs had failed in their first objective. The start of their second innings was calamitous and the source of England's embarrassment was surprising, to say the least. Mudassar is not the worst bowler in the world by any means but he is not such a terror that he should be taking three prime English wickets in just six deliveries.

England had coped well if not with any great conviction with the opening salvoes fired by Imran. How desperately unlucky he had been on the third day with Sarfraz and possibly Randall, Tavaré and the England camp in general must have felt a sense of relief when Mudassar was brought into the attack from the Nursery End in place of Sarfraz. He was probably only brought on so as to allow Imran and Sarfraz to change ends. Relief indeed. Three overs later, the English innings appeared to be in ruins.

Randall, who had played down the wrongline to Sarfraz now did the same to Mudassar and his off stump was sent spinning a distance. In the same over, Lamb pushed half forward was struck on the front pad and looked up in mortification to see umpire Bird's finger raised. A careworn Test for David Gower, his first as England's captain, brought even more disappointment in Mudassar's next over when Gower followed a ball that was slanted across his body. He could have left it alone but he seemed not to be thinking too sharply and a faint outside edge gave Wasim Bari the easiest of catches behind the stumps and the Pakistanis another excuse for collective celebration.

Tavaré, meanwhile, was still strokeless but at least he had survived and he was now joined by the reassuring figure of Botham striding to the wicket with that purposefulness which means so much to England these days. His form before this game was not totally convincing and there were depressing scores of two and nought at Edgbaston to give the tourists every encouragement of capturing his wicket cheaply but he was not to be bought at any price this day and neither was Tavaré. Slowly England came back to life.

Tavaré's feats of slow scoring are already becoming infamous. He was now to take 67 minutes before get-

ting off the mark. Only four Test players have taken longer but since England were thinking only in terms of saving this game and occupation of the crease was all important, Tavaré's contribution was not to be underestimated. Botham was outstanding looking again in that impenetrable form that he produced so consistently against India earlier this summer. His defences and judgment looked impeccable and his attacking strokes came with a full flow of the bat.

Thrice before lunch he struck Qadir for fours in a single over after the rain and the long interruption. Botham's mood and his tactics altered Qadir, possibly in the hope that Botham would sweep as he had done to his destruction in the first innings, persisted in bowling round the wicket. The ball had frequently pitched outside the line of the leg stump and Botham had simply kept putting his left pad in the way. It was not the prettiest of sights but it nullified all of Qadir's danger.

For 30 minutes Botham remained scoreless but then began moving again when he clocked Imran for four off his legs and when Qadir overpitched he was mercilessly thrashed through the covers to the boundary. He reached his 50 when he read Qadir's googly perfectly and chopped him down to third man for three. He has produced faster half centuries but few more valuable.

Soon after seven p.m. with play scheduled to continue for another hour, the players went off for bad light. There followed one of those low comedy scenes in which the umpires returned, held up light meters, looked miserable and then after jeers from the few remaining spectators ordered a restart. One over was bowled and they all trooped off again to the now familiar sight at Lord's of cushions being hurled on to the ground.

**N**OT since 1954 and the days of Fazal Mahmood, have Pakistan enjoyed such satisfaction as they did at Lord's on the last day. The Cornhill Test, grippingly fought from the start, ended in victory for Pakistan by 10 wickets and any other result would have been an injustice. The prospects for the final Test at Headingley with the sides now level in the three-match series are appealing.

Pakistan's second win over England in this country was achieved in the end with 29 balls to spare, a safe enough margin. But the last phase of a day on which England might just have saved the game was tense and exciting and a fitting end to a fine contest. England were bowled out in their second innings for 276 and that left Pakistan 18 overs to secure the 76 runs required to win.

A rate of a fraction above four an over was not too demanding. But,

adding spice to the plot was the threat of rain. This had been forecasted to arrive at four o'clock but, to Pakistan's relief, failed to materialise. The game, however, did finish in light which in normal circumstances would scarcely have been tolerated. But, of course, the Pakistani batsmen, would have been prepared to bat in the light of a coal cellar to secure this historic and memorable win.

The way Mohsin Khan and Javed Miandad set about their task of scoring runs was in keeping with so much of Pakistan's cricket in this game. It was positive and assured. England's careworn captain David Gower, did not have a great many options open to him and whatever methods he might have used to try to defend his small reserves would probably have proved inadequate.

But it still required calm nerves, clear thinking and a lot of swift running between the wickets for Pakistan to reach their goal.

But Mohsin and Javed rarely faltered. No chance was offered by either batsman and such was the judgement of their running between wickets that there were no alarms in this department either. They made the most encouraging start, taking nine runs off Botham's opening over, and from the next 14 overs and one ball, runs accumulated steadily. Not once were England allowed even the small encouragement of a maiden over.

After seven overs the offensive had been firmly launched with Mohsin again displaying an enviably composed nature. The eighth over bowled by Jackman, then yielded 11 runs with Mohsin twice lofting the Surrey bowler high to mid wicket for boundaries which were greeted jubilantly by the agitated and vociferous Pakistani supporters in that part of the ground.

There was an idiotic moment when the umpires offered the batsmen the benefit of the light and there seemed just a possibility that the weather, which has been less kind to Pakistan than England in this match, might provide a final bitter twist to the tale.

Pakistan were not to be denied and the fourteenth over arrived with just three runs needed. Hemmings bowled it and Javed cut the first ball emphatically for four. He turned and raced for the pavilion as the Pakistani spectators poured jubilantly on to the ground.

England, nevertheless, came closer to saving the game than had once seemed possible and the uncompromising nature of their cricket on this final day heightened the tension. It should be remembered, of course, that when England followed on 201 runs behind on the Sunday of the game they were soon nine for three. And with the best part of two



days to go That Pakistan should have to wait so long for their win was one of the more encouraging aspects of a match which has demanded some searching questions of the England side

The most prominent figure as England manned the barricades was Chris Tavare He is not arguably the best opening batsman in English cricket Many of his longer vigils have been frankly boring He finds it hard to move up a gear even when he has been at the wicket for long periods But, as he extended hour by hour an innings which had begun early on the fourth day, it was impossible not to admire his character, resilience and concentration More than once throughout the day the partnership of Watson and Boley that saved a Test against Australia in 1953 was recalled Tavare's long watch was of such proportions

Tavare would allow nothing to distract him After he has played a delivery, usually with a dead bat, he walks considerable distances from his wicket rapt in concentration, occasionally prodding offensive pieces of turf many yards from his crease and staring intently downwards into that private, implacable world of his, cocooned from everything but the next delivery

By only seven minutes did he fail

to complete the slowest half-century on record Twice during a vigil of almost seven hours he spent two sessions of almost an hour each time when he failed to score a run No one has ever quite managed that before The man's capacity for strokelessness is unrivalled, and so is his concentration What the Sydney Hill or the Outer Ring at Melbourne will make of him this winter, one shudders to think But then, Tavare is likely to remain oblivious to the raucous cries of 'Have a go, yer mug'

With Botham Tavare shared a fourth wicket stand of 112, a partnership unfortunately for England that was parted too soon when Botham cut Mudassar and Sarfraz at gully made a difficult catch look deceptively simple, Mudassar, already with three wickets to his credit, was to finish this unforgettable day with six for 32 Those were the unlikely statistics of all And this from a man who appeared only in the 'also-bowled' columns for Cheshire last season

Gatting also fell to Mudassar and again to a stroke that can have given him no satisfaction Pringle, who will be fortunate to retain his place in the side once more failed to fathom our the mysteries of Qadir and again Greig looked a batsman short of Test quality But Tavare remained and

after reaching his 50, even began to launch into his strokes

He deserved a hundred, for patience as much as anything else, but was beginning to show just a little too much of aggression when he drove at a wideish delivery from Imran and gave Javed a juggling catch at second slip That, it seemed safe to assume, was the end of England's serious resistance but, after Hemmings had been caught at the wicket off Imran, Taylor and Jackman joined forces for such lengthy occupation as to throw the result into doubt once again

For 18 frustrating overs the last pair stayed together, Taylor hobbling after being struck on the right foot by one of Imran's thunderbolts, and Jackman, through Pakistani eyes, looking ominously assured Signs of anxiety began to creep into the tourists' bowling as the pair forged their partnership and the runs mounted

Had it continued much longer than it did—and it realised 41 runs—Pakistan might have been in serious difficulties with the overs beginning to run out But Qadir and Jackman were eventually caught close to the wicket and Mohsin, a thoroughly deserved choice for the Man of the Match, and Javed completed the job, efficiently

#### PAKISTAN VERSUS ENGLAND, Lord's

##### PAKISTAN (First innings)

MUDASSAR NAZAR c Taylor b Jackman 20  
MOHSIN KHAN a Tavare b Jackman 200 not out 39  
MANSOOR AKHTAR c Lamb b Botham 57  
JAVED MIANDAD run out 6 not out 26  
ZAHEER ABBAS b Jackman 75  
HAROON RASHID lbw Botham 1  
IMRAN KHAN c Taylor b Botham 12  
TAHIR NAQQASH c Gatting b Jackman 2  
WASIM BARI not out 24  
ABDUL QADIR not out 18  
EXTRAS 13

TOTAL (for eight wickets declared) 428

(for no wicket)

12  
77

Fall of wickets: 1/56, 2/197, 3/208, 4/361, 5/394, 6/399, 7/382, 8/401.

Bowling: 44-8-148-3, Jackman 34-5-110-4, Pringle 26-6-82-0, Greig 13-2-49-0, Hemmings 20-3-88-0.

Bowling: Botham 7-0-30-0, Jackman 4-0-22-0, Hemmings 2-1-6-18-0.

##### ENGLAND (First innings)

DEREK RANDALL bowled Sarfraz  
CHRIS TAVARE b Sarfraz  
ALLAN LAMB b Haroon b Naqqash  
DAVID GOWER c Mansoor b Imran  
IAN BOTHAM c Mansoor b Qadir  
MIKE GATTING not out  
DEREK PRINGLE c Haroon b Gaur  
IAN GREIG lbw Qadir  
EDDIE HEMMINGS b Sarfraz  
BOB TAYLOR lbw Qadir  
ROBIN JACKMAN lbw Imran  
EXTRAS

TOTAL

Fall of wickets: 1/5, 2/27, 3/57, 4/127, 5/137, 6/147, 7/157, 8/167.

Fall of wickets: 1/12, 2/12, 3/12, 4/12, 5/12, 6/12, 7/12, 8/12.

Bowling: 44-8-148-3, Jackman 34-5-110-4, Pringle 26-6-82-0, Greig 13-2-49-0, Hemmings 20-3-88-0.

Bowling: 44-8-148-3, Jackman 34-5-110-4, Pringle 26-6-82-0, Greig 13-2-49-0, Hemmings 20-3-88-0.

##### (Second innings)

9  
82  
0  
0  
9  
7  
14  
2  
14  
24  
17  
36  
278

## Interview

# I am now full of vigour and drive once again

Chetan Chauhan talks to A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**D**ISAPPOINTED at being dropped for the England tour, Chetan Chauhan is again his old, vigorous self, full of zest for the game. The

way our opening stand was repeatedly dissolved on the England tour, they must have longed for the man they had left back home. However,



Chetan Chauhan—the drive is back again

the rest appears to have done Chauhan good. At 35, the doughty Rajput, fit as ever before, is yearning to do battle again for India. Training regularly with Delhi's Ranji Trophy probables, he took time off during his Janmashtami fast to talk to Sportsworld.

**SPORTSWORLD:** In a private chat after the team for England had been chosen you had said, "No worry, I'll come back." What made you say that?

**CHETAN CHAUHAN:** I said that because I have confidence in myself. I know I have the ability, physical fitness and most of the other requisites for an opening batsman. Besides, I have not failed in Test cricket, having scored more than 2,000 runs. I never give up. I am made that way. I have been working hard to come back and hard work always pays.

**SW:** How did you take your omission?

**C.C.:** Naturally, I was disappointed.

**SW:** You have toured England before. Few people are better qualified to talk of the business of opening a Test innings for a touring team in England. Why did we fail to find a stable partner for Gavaskar?

**C.C.:** English conditions are the toughest to play in—especially for opening batsmen. Great players who had been scoring heavily in their own countries have failed in England. As for our failure, it could be due to inexperience, lack of temperament for the big occasion or flaws in technique, especially in the English conditions.

**SW:** What are your views on promoting Ravi Shastri as an opening batsman?

**C.C.:** It is very sporting and gallant of him to have agreed to take on the job.

**SW:** Following the tour from New Delhi, where you stay, what, according to you, are the lessons of the tour?

**C.C.:** We must try, as far as possible, to send more experienced players on English tours. I agree we should also try out youngsters, but not so many at a time. Not more than two or three.

**SW:** Our attack also did not do too well. What about our spinners?

**C.C.:** By far, Kapil is our only weapon. But one bowler cannot win a game. Madan is a great trier, but I would prefer him as a number three seamer. We must look around for bowlers to support Kapil. As for spin, I think Dilip Doshi is capable of doing a good job in helpful conditions.

**SW:** The Sri Lankans will be here next month. Don't you think that that would be the time to experiment?

**C.C.:** I am sure the selectors will try out new probables because there are

two tough tours coming—Pakistan and the West Indies

**SW:** Would you have given the England tour failures another chance if you were a selector?

**C.C.** It is up to the selectors.

**SW:** With one-day cricket assuming so much importance, don't you think special needs should be considered when selecting a touring party?

**C.C.** We should stress on the Test 16 only. The one day players will emerge from them.

**SW:** New rules have been framed for the Ranji Trophy matches based on the English County experience. What do you think about the change?

**C.C.** Good for our cricket. Hitherto, batsmen got most of the importance because the first innings lead meant so much. Much depended on piling up a big total. Often teams were contented to play for a draw. This trend will go out now. The biggest advantage of the change in the rule is for the bowlers. There will be points for capturing wickets of the opposing side also. Cricket will be more positive. More outright results will be seen in the three day games. There will now be no points for first innings lead. The new rules will also give a better chance to

a training camp which is very tough. I do everything the others do. I even out do them!

**SW:** How did you spend the summer months at home when the national team was touring England?

**C.C.** I worked hard in the office at my ten-to-five job. I have changed jobs—from the Bank of Maharashtra to the Bank of Baroda. On alternate days I jogged six kilometres. But I did not play much cricket. I took a temporary leave from the game. The rest has done me good. I am now full of vigour and drive once again, full of enthusiasm. I feel the rest has sharpened my edge.

**SW:** The selectors came under unprecedented criticism following the announcement of the team to England. What are your own views?

**C.C.** This is not good for cricket. Once the team is selected, it is selected. Don't forget the feelings of those selected players against whom the criticism is directed. Those men have still to play and perform. Criticism like the type we had can be very discouraging.

**SW:** Do you not think that the selectors should watch more matches?

**C.C.** It will be good if more domestic fixtures are followed. However,

cost him his wicket many a time. Yes, they seek my advice and they get it.

**SW:** And this criticism of your being a slow scorer, or a batsman without strokes?

**C.C.** Yes I am aware of it. In a Test team there should be two grafters, batsmen who can hold the innings together. It is not wise to have all stroke-players in a batting line-up. It is too risky. People who are grafters stay at the wicket for a long time and are depended upon. In a Test match there is a lot of time—live whole days to bat through.

**SW:** How would you compare yourself with Tavare or Boycott of England and Gavaskar?

**C.C.** I think I play more shots than the first two. As for Gavaskar, well, there is no point in comparing me with him. He is one of best in the world.

**SW:** But at least this correspondent does not subscribe to the view that you have no shots in your repertoire. You are quite capable of playing good strokes. Why don't you step up your run-rate? Your critics will only be too happy to see you do so.

**C.C.** It's all a question of the situation. I would love to play my shots. It's also a question of getting loose balls. Most of the time I

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**It was very gallant of him (Shastri) to have agreed to take on the job (of opening)**

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weaker teams to gain points. They can get points for taking wickets and this is very good for domestic cricket.

**SW:** Any other steps you have in mind which could help improve the domestic scene? Any suggestions?

**C.C.** Yes I would like some sort of a method to be devised so that weaker teams can employ professionals, either from their own Zone or from any other Zone, but with the undertaking that they play for a minimum stipulated period. These players could be paid anything from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 for a match. I have in mind associations like Jammu and Kashmir. There are so many good players in centres like Delhi and Bombay unable to find a place in these sides. Indian cricket will be better in many ways. Weaker teams will become stronger, matches will be more interesting and good cricketers, while gaining financially from the game, will find opportunities to prove themselves.

**SW:** You have started training again with the Delhi team. You are 35 and not getting any younger. How fit are you compared to last year?

**C.C.** Regular training—jogging, fitness exercises etc.—has kept me about seven years younger. At the moment I am as fit as any other cricketer. Bishan Bedi is conducting

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**I think I play more shots than Tavare or Boycott**

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domestic performances should not be the sole criterion for selection. Eighty per cent of the runs scored in domestic matches are against spin bowlers. Equal importance should be given to a batsman's performance in international cricket, where most of the runs have to be scored against hostile fast bowling.

**SW:** You are a known fitness enthusiast. Tell us if our cricketers on tour follow the fitness schedule they are taught at the training camps before the start of the tour.

**C.C.** On tour they do it collectively. But in the off-season, well, it depends on the individual players themselves.

**SW:** You are a senior player—something of an elder statesman. Captains are said to respect your word. What about the younger players? Do they look up to you for advice? What sort of help do you give them?

**C.C.** Sometimes the younger players do seek my help. And I am very helpful to them. No names, please. But there is one young up-and-coming batsman who is trying to correct a flaw in his technique after I told him that his bat was coming down from the gully position. Another batsman, also a rising player, is trying to check his tendency to play across—a tendency which has

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**Criticism like the type we had after the team was selected can be very discouraging**

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have been under a lot of pressure—whether playing for India or for Delhi.

**SW:** As I said earlier, at 35 you are not getting any younger. Isn't age against you?

**C.C.** Age should not be the criterion for selection. Ability, fitness and performance only. These factors should be considered rather than the age of a player. Boycott is 44 but still one of the fittest in the business. Wicket-keeper Taylor is 40. Jackman, summoned by England's selectors as a replacement for Willis, is 37. Fletcher is 39 and Underwood is also of the same age.

**SW:** And then this criticism that the Indian cricket team lacks a professional approach. What do you have to say to that?

**C.C.** Yes, it is lacking. Maybe the atmosphere in which this approach develops is not there.

**SW:** But to develop this "professional" approach the atmosphere should be there at all levels of our domestic cricket. This approach cannot be built overnight.

**C.C.** Yes, there should be "professional" management of teams at all levels of our domestic cricket. Men like Venkat, Bedi, Ashok Mankad, Nadkarni, Borde, Umrigar and Gavaskar could do a lot to build this approach.

## Spot report

MASTERS OPEN BADMINTON

# Pongoh wins sans interest

PARTAB RAMCHAND reports from Hyderabad

ON the eve of the second Indian Master's Open Badminton Tournament there were more pessimists than optimists. This seemed understandable. On the face of it, an international tournament without Han Jian, Hadiyanto, Ray Stevens, Niehuoff, Nora Perry, Zheng Yuli, Sally Podger and Ivana (all of whom participated in the inaugural Master's at Pune in November last year) could hardly have any glamour. Also going to be missed were Leim Swee King, Martin Frost Hansen, Luan Jin, Kevin Jolly, and Lene Koppen. It

was quickly obvious that compared to the ambitious Pune tournament this year's championship at the Fateh Maidan Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad was going to be almost second rate.

At the end of the five day meet, held between August 11 and 15, it could be said that most of the pessimism was justified. Out of over 50 matches played in five events, only a handful were really of international class. But of the five days, only one—the third day—really provided badminton of the Master's variety.

Then there were organisational gaffes and plenty of complaints from both the players and the Press. One got the impression that unless something is done—and done fast—this international prize money tournament, initiated with much ballyhoo last year in this country, will simply cease to exist.

It is not difficult to pinpoint the reasons as to why the top players stayed away from the Hyderabad tournament. Badminton Association of India officials kept harping on the fact that there were a greater number of participants in this year's tournament. But what is quantity without quality? and quality was something one hardly saw at Hyderabad. Everyone who saw the Pune tournament, unanimously agreed that it was a far greater success, from any angle.

The Indian badminton fans—who are not as gullible as the organisers would like them to be—stayed away in great numbers. For example tickets at Pune were priced at between Rs 250 and Rs 1500. Still, 5,000 to 6,000 fans gathered at the stadium every day. At Hyderabad, the rates were much cheaper yet the 3,500 capacity Fateh Maidan stadium was



Master Lius Pongoh

# The Masters' Hoax

NO matter which way you look at it, you cannot escape the fact that the Indian Masters Badminton Tournament is a hoax. The way of the Indian Masters Grand Prix is to say nothing for the tournament. It is a total hoax.

This is in spite of the fact that the Indian Masters is a prize money of Rs. 10,000 sterling (about £2,000) and is giving away a substantial amount of foreign exchange. What do we get in return? Players like K. Gopalan, M. Gopalan, P. Praveen, M. Yashwanth, who have heard of in the badminton world.

Besides paying this substantial amount in foreign exchange the tournament authorities have paid the 50 players that they claim had entered the event, air fare and board & lodging. One must not forget that there may have been a "few" officials for whom the same courtesy must have been extended. One wonders how much expenditure has been incurred on foreign contingents.

An event is called a Masters Event, because you have the top players participating. Can you imagine the tennis Masters being held without the Lendl, McEnroe, Connors or Borg? And yet the Indian Masters badminton is held without Morten Frost, Hansen, Luan Jin, Han Jian and Choi Swie King. Moreover at the Masters, you have the top players participating and not every time only Dick and Harry. At least at Pune event last year when the first Indian Masters badminton event was held the entry list was restricted to players in the men's event. But here at Hyderabad there were more than eight players in the event. In view of this, would it not be more pertinent to call the Indian event an international one rather than a Masters.

Reportedly, these top players would only come if the prize money was a bit higher to make it worth their while. This agreement is ludicrous. The officials responsible for the tournament should be able to ensure that a few of the top players come or otherwise it is best scrap the tournament. Without the leading exponents of the game on view the purpose of conducting the event is defeated. Neither do the Indian players get the experience of playing against the good opposition, nor do the enthusiasts get to see top-class badminton.

By holding such a competition we are only serving the purpose

of the Indian and Yashwanth, who get to play Prakash Padukone. What is more amusing is that the prize money and the prize money are paid by the BAI. We have to decide who and for all, for whom are we having the tournament? Is it for the players or for the foreigners? If we are paying good money why should we settle for second grade players. For a local tournament offering stakes of Rs. 25,000 is an achievement and here we are spending enormous amounts for such low returns.

Worse enough, we Indians seem to attach a lot of importance to the word "photos". Every time an event is held, the organisers talk about how many foreign interns these players are coming, the advertisements emphasise the foreign participation and, of course, the Press does its bit for the organisers. The point one is trying to make is that why should we waste that just because they are foreigners they are good players. For Indians, a Korean, a Thai or a Chinese is as important as a Dane, a Chinese, and an Indonesian when it comes to badminton.

On July 17, S. K. Chakha, secretary of the second Indian Masters at Hyderabad and the secretary of the Badminton Association of India, announced that China and Denmark would not be sending their players. And yet an advertisement for sale of tickets mentioned in national dailies on July 18 saying that China and Denmark were participating in the event. A few days later on August 1 another advertisement appeared and this time though China's name was removed, Denmark was still mentioned in the ad. Was this an attempt to induce the fans to buy tickets?

Are Indian officials satisfied with foreign participation at the tournament? If not, it would seem so, because one BAI official is reported to have said, "At Hyderabad, we had 18 more foreigners than we had in Pune." Really enough, no one talked about the quality of the entry list.

Why are Indian officials sponsoring the foreigners? Is it because our officials want their valuable votes at the International Association? The Indian Tennis Grand Prix was attracting tennis players who did come along for a few days and the Indian Masters badminton seems to be going the same way. Indian badminton is in a shambles.

HARESH MUNWANI

never full. On the first two days it was only about half full, the attendance improved on the third day and on the fourth and final days the stadium was almost full. It was discovered later that a large number of complimentary had been issued.

What kept the stars away? Well the Chinese for one were too busy practising at home for the Asian Games and did not want to be exposed. Or so we were told. However on closer scrutiny one found that the top Chinese players Han Jian Luan Jin Zheng Yuli are taking part in next month's International Championship at Kuala Lumpur. Won't they be exposed then? Ah but then they would not mind being exposed when 60,000 pounds sterling is at stake in prize money. Yes that is the real reason why this year's championships attracted second and third ranking players.

The BAI had in fact asked the government to sanction £20,000 in foreign exchange for the prize money. But the government sanctioned only £14,000—the same amount as last year's. With badminton now obviously going the same way there has to be an increase every year otherwise the Indian Masters will just not be able to attract the top notchers in the world of badminton. Why even the Jakarta International which immediately followed the Hyderabad Masters offered prize money totalling £35,000 and naturally the top players took part. If this very important financial aspect is not looked into the competition could very well die a quick death.

The fare itself was lucky of the mediocre variety. What little good badminton we saw was provided in some of the men's singles matches and a couple of men's doubles on courtiers. The women's singles were generally of a poor quality while the women's doubles and mixed double hardly evoked my interest.

At the outset Prakash Padukone must have been a bit of money favourite for the title with the BAI makers. And yet the top seed and defending champion did not even make it to the semifinal in a tournament with only 18 entries. The 2nd seed, Suk Goo, an amateur did not have time to exert himself in defeating K. T. of Japan 15-17 in only 25 minutes in his opening match. But just undignified he came a cropper in the first match against Suk Sigitto of Indonesia. The Indonesians have a high regard for Prakash and the shy 19-year-old Suk Sigitto experienced that thrill on the third day of the championships. The Indian coach P. S. Prasad made an excuse for Prakash saying that he had not been practising. He paid very little credit to Suk Sigitto. I am sure Prakash would find himself in a minority if he were to be taken among all those who witnessed the hour long quarter



final encounter Prakash, though certainly not at his best, did not play badly. He tried every trick in the game. He slowed the pace, prolonged the rallies, quickened the tempo, smashed accurately. But for whatever he did, Sugianto had an answer. Displaying all the skill and charm that is so typical of the Indonesian game, Sugianto just outwitted and outlasted the Indian ace. There was the cat-like agility, panther-like speed, remarkable reflexes, superb court coverage. But most amazing was his retrieving power. The manner in which he went headlong to take some of Prakash's shots was something almost unbelievable. He played Prakash at his own game and won—and he badly wanted to win both for his country and for himself. The Indonesians take a special pride in beating Prakash and then Sugianto to himself had lost to the Indian on all the three occasions they had met. No wonder then that he classed his 12-15, 15-2, 15-4 victory as 'The greatest in my career'.

In many ways, this was the match of the event. But there were at least two or three other encounters that deserve special mention. The Karlsson-Baddeley quarter final was one such. A keen match was on the cards and it certainly lived up to expectations. Neither is a touch artist like Prakash. The Swede and the Englishman are exponents of the European power game. What one saw during the 41 minutes match was attack and counter attack. The left handed Stephen Baddeley kills with awesome power but then not behind in any way is the blonde 26 year-old Stefan Karlsson. The Swede won the first game 15-4, only to surrender the second at the same score. In the decider, Karlsson trailed 3-7, levelled at that score and thereafter the rallies were close, and the issue hung in the balance till almost the end. Finally, Karlsson who possessed that little extra, raised the level of his game and emerged victorious. It was a great personal triumph for Karlsson who, being essentially a doubles player, had never before reached the semi-final in a singles event anywhere in the world.

Karlsson had earlier too been involved in a fascinating duel for supremacy with India's Uday Pawar. He won the first game 15-5 and Pawar took the second 15-8. The decider was one of the best games seen in the tournament. For both quality and the closeness of the contest, it provided some of the most enjoyable moments in the five day championships. It was a test of nerves and stamina rather than skill and in these two qualities the Swede had the advantage.

All these three matches involved contestants in the top half of the draw. If the bottom half did not serve up anything so keen and exciting it only showed to what extent Jats

Pongoh dominated it. The three opponents the 26-year-old Indonesian happened to meet in reaching the final were all Indians. And one by one he made short work of them using basically one stroke—the smash.

For sheer raw, awesome naked power, Pongoh's smashing was the talking point of the tournament. Maybe he also possessed the more subtle skills that go with the Indonesian game, but there was hardly an opportunity to see them. First, Pongoh dismissed Vikram Singh 15-2, 15-2 in 22 minutes; he took a little longer to destroy Partho Ganguly 15-4, 15-5 in the quarter final. And then in the semi final he simply demolished Sved Modi 15-5, 15-0 in just 19 minutes. Modi had earlier defeated Thomas Kilhstrom of Sweden 15-8, 15-9 and altogether had looked so impressive that one looked forward—justifiably as we thought—to wresting a game off Pongoh as it transpired his challenge was the most fragile.

A Prakash Pongoh final which was what the draw indicated would have provided a fine climax and at least done something to the reputation of the tournament.

As it turned out, a final between two Indonesians just could not tickle one's fancy. It was bound to lack the intensity of the contest which always prevails when the combatants are from two different countries. Still a battle between Pongoh and Sugianto was obviously going to epitomise a tussle between power and subtlety.

Instead it turned out to be a most unexciting encounter and one that seemed to be the most fitting climax (if one can use that word) to a generally lack lustre tournament. Pongoh hardly unleashed his famous smash and in fact did not seem to be even interested in doing so. From Sugianto we saw little of the skill and courtcraft that saw him overcome Prakash only 48 hours before.

The players exchanged long and boring rallies that frequently had the crowd jeering. At least the first game was close (15-12). In the second as well, the contest was missing (15-5) and in 35 minutes, it must be recorded for posterity's sake, Pongoh won to take the title. One would not go so far to say that it was a letdown or that it left a bad taste in one's mouth. But it must be said that it was not the final one anticipated.

Asian participants outnumbered Europeans by three to one in the tournament (27 to 9). But the men's singles title was the only one that the Asians could claim. The Europeans won all the other four titles with considerable ease. In the women's singles, Yoshiko Yonekura of Japan was the top seed and favourite for the title, but the winner was Jane Webster, a 26 year-old bank employee from London.

Frankly, this did come as a sur-

prise. For one thing, in matches leading up to the final, Yonekura looked the more accomplished player. Secondly, Webster survived many anxious moments in both her quarter final and semi-final matches. She was actually close to defeat in both matches.

In her first outing, she lost the first game 4-11, to A. Tokuda of Japan. She then won the second only by the skin of her teeth (12-9), but then went on to claim the decider easily 11-3. She survived an even closer encounter in her semi final with K. Jinnai also of Japan. Again Webster lost the first game 9-1 and this time she trailed badly (5-8) in the second. Three points away from victory, Jinnai faltered.

Webster took six straight points to take the game and draw level. In the decider again Jinnai led 6-4. Thereafter Webster again rallied, allowed Jinnai only one point, took seven herself, won the game 11-7 and made a most unexpected and dramatic entry into the final.

Having survived all these close shaves, Webster's nerves had obviously been steelled for the final. And she played a very clever tactical game against Yonekura. Noticing that the 24 year old Japanese woman relished a fast tempo, Webster slowed the game down, kept the rallies going and waited for the impatient Yonekura to make the mistake. This strategy paid off and the Japanese, unable to counter it, went down tamely 3-11, 5-11 in 20 minutes.

But for Prakash's shock defeat, the Indian challenge in the men's division more or less accomplished what it was expected of them. It was not just the fact that they did not get through even their opening round, for that was bad enough. What was worse was the manner in which they lost. There was just no pattern, no system, no strategy, no planning. They just played in some haphazard fashion, and went down without a semblance of a fight.

Vandana Chipalkar lost to Yanthi Kusmiati of Indonesia 7-11, 2-11. National champion Madhumita Goswami played in a crazy slam-bang fashion, hitting out anything and everything and was defeated easily by Tokuda. Ami Ghia, not having recovered fully from the ankle injury sustained at the Udaipur camp, was forced to withdraw. Hrishikesh Nauman was beaten 1-11, 7-11 by Yonekura. Ameeta Kulkarni brought a bit of credit to the squad by being the only one to take a game. She extended Budhiarti of Indonesia before losing 7-11, 11-6, 4-11. The Indian girls were found wanting in skill and stamina.

One shudders at the thought of the feeble challenge that the girls will be putting up at the Asian Games. Perhaps Ami Ghia, if fully recovered, can put up a fight. But one would have to be unduly optimistic.





*Indonesia's Sugiarto outsmarted defending champion Prakash Padukone in the quarters*

tic to expect any of the others to proceed very far. I say this in spite of the fact that a second camp is going on at Udaipur and in the face of coach Puri's optimism.

For sheer aesthetic pleasure, the best fare was provided in some of the men's doubles matches. There was at least one very good match and one that was simply excellent. The former tie was the semi final between Billy Gilliland and Dick Travers and the Koreans Joo Bong Park and Eun Ku Lee. The Koreans came to Hyderabad with the reputation of having reached the semi finals at the all-England championships and subsequently having won the Danish Open title. In a fine match, the Asian pair defeated the Europeans 15-7, 15-6 and 15-7. The only aspect missing was a keen contest. Otherwise, the match had everything that badminton has to offer. The rallies were, close and exciting.

The excellent match followed immediately after this. The crowd actually were eagerly looking forward to this other semi final. An encounter between the top Euro-

pean pair and the top Asian pair gives every indication of being a thriller.

The match between Kihlstrom and Karlsson and Haryanto exceeded even the highest expectations. It was played at a pace which was fast even by modern standards. At times the rallies were so quick that the shuttle was just a blur. There was little to choose from between the two pairs as in everything—reflexes, court craft, speed, power—they were so obviously matched. Some of the rallies had the spectators howling with delight or standing up to applaud.

Even the result (the Swedes won 6-15, 18-15, 15-12) hardly seemed to matter. One just wished that the match would go on and on. It was this game that put Kihlstrom and Karlsson high on the list of popular players on view and they were the most sought after by autograph hunters.

The final of the men's doubles too promised to be a fine match. Unfortunately the Koreans could not recapture their magic that saw them register that splendid victory in the

semi final. Their fantastic reflexes, which more than anything else saw them score that triumph, were hardly in evidence. And Kihlstrom and Karlsson coasted to a 15-10, 15-12 win to claim the title. The Swedes had beaten the Korean pair in the Swedish Open earlier this year.

Little need be said of the women's doubles and mixed doubles events. The only interest was whether Jane Webster would claim a treble. She was in line for it, having entered all three finals. But she had to remain satisfied with the women's singles title. She and Karen Chapman lost 1-15, 8-15 to Gillian Gilks and Gillian Clarke.

Paired with Thomas Kihlstrom, she lost the mixed doubles final too, going down 14-18, 11-15 to Gillian and Karen Chapman. India's role in these events too was rather restricted, though Kanwal Thakur Singh and Leroy D'Sa put up a good show in the latter event. They defeated Karlsson and Gillian Clarke 18-15, 15-12 before going down in the semi final to the Gillian Chapman pairing 10-15, 6-15.

## The court jester

If there was a prize for the most popular player in the Indian Master's Open Badminton Tournament at Hyderabad, it would have been awarded almost unanimously to Thomas Kilhstrom. To a game which seems to be dominated by serious players, the 33-year-old balding Swede brought a rare touch of humour. He was indeed the joker in the pack.

The experienced Swedish star had the crowd roaring with delight often with his timely and intelligent antics on court and these he freely indulged in whether he was losing or winning. For example, during his men's singles quarter-final match with Syed Modi (which he lost badly) he essayed a net dribble but the shuttle just kissed the top of the net and came down on his side. Kilhstrom let go a little cry of anguish and pointed to the shuttle as if to say, "How can you let me down like this?"

During the same encounter, Kilhstrom was the victim of what seemed to him at least bad calls by a linesman. After a couple of such decisions, he received a favourable one from the same gentleman and amidst a great howl of laughter bowed reverently to him.

Two other gestures became typical of him. One was the manner in which he attempted to blow at the shuttle when it was going out or when it was known that it would land near the sideline. The other was when he frequently used his racket like a music conductor in an attempt to quieten the noisy section of the crowd.

But perhaps his best act of humour came after his marathon doubles semi-final match against the Indonesian duo of Kijono and Haryanto. Visibly tired he carried as many as four bottles of soft drinks in his hands and made his way to the dressing room. A young boy picked this ticklish moment to ask him for his autograph. Instead of making a sarcastic remark or reprimanding the lad, Kilhstrom—a born comedian—made as if to take the pen and write with his mouth. Once again, there were peals of laughter all around.

## Puri: Judge us at the Asiad

**T**PS PURI, the chief coach of the Indian badminton squad at the Asian Games coaching camp at Udaipur, was the manager of the team that participated in the Master's at Hyderabad. *Sportsworld* asked him to assess the performance of the Indians.

**SW:** Are you satisfied with the show of the Indian players?

**Puri:** By and large it was a satisfactory performance though, because of Prakash's defeat, some adverse com-

ments will undoubtedly be heard. I don't think we did badly because we were not expected to do any better. Modi was expected to reach the semi-final and he did so. No one else was expected to go any further than what they did. It is true that the girls might have disappointed but then again they were not expected to do any better. We suffered a heavy blow with Ami Ghia not being able to take part. Had she been able to play, she might have made the final.

**SW:** What are your comments on Prakash's defeat?

**Puri:** I would say that Sugiarto was probably lucky to catch Prakash when the latter was not playing very well. Just a couple of months before, Prakash had beaten Sugiarto easily. I would not say that Sugiarto played extremely well for his victory. Also one must remember that Prakash did not have much practice before the Masters.



**SW:** But he came to the camp at Udaipur?

**Puri:** Yes, but that was only for about ten days and that too at my request. Which brings me to the point that one should not judge either Prakash's performance or the team's showing by what happened. You must remember that the Udaipur coaching camp is for training our team for the Asian Games, not the Master's. The players have not peaked yet. You must judge our performance in the Asian Games. And Prakash should be judged by his performance at Kuala Lumpur in September and by his show in the Master's Tournament in London after that. Don't only judge us by our performance at Hyderabad.

**SW:** Did any Indian performance exceed your expectations?

**Puri:** Yes, I am particularly pleased at the way our doubles teams (both women's and mixed) fared.

**SW:** In short, you mean we can expect a much better performance

from the Indian players at the Asian Games.

**Puri:** Definitely.

## Shamateurism?

**C**urrent indications are that it is highly unlikely that Prakash Padukone will get to play in the Asian Games. The controversy surfaced about a month ago when it was known that Prakash, being a licensed player, may have trouble in qualifying for the Asian Games. There has always been some confusion as to whether the licensed player is a pro or an amateur—or neither.

The International Badminton Federation (IBF) ruled last month that Prakash could take part. But since this is the Asian Games, it has become more a matter for the Asian Games Federation to decide. The AGF is in a quandary since Prakash is the only licensed player in this continent, while the rule regarding such players was brought in essentially to help Europeans.

Mu Fazil Ahmed, President of the Badminton Association of India (BAI) initially, seemed optimistic. He said that if Prakash could be termed a pro then the age-old rule states that amateurs who play against pros also become pros should apply. In effect, he pointed out, players who have opposed Prakash on court will also be ineligible to take part in the Asian Games. He even indicated that Prakash could be included in the team for the Asiad. Then if the AGF ruled against Prakash or if the other players kicked up a ruckus, he could even seek a court order restraining them also from taking part. But he hoped that an amicable solution would be found.

A few days later, during the tournament, when this correspondent cornered Mr Ahmed on the issue again, he was no more optimistic. "It is a lost cause", he said. "Our case is very weak." He remarked dejectedly. Mr Ahmed said that on this issue it was of no advantage that the Asian Games were being held in India. "On the contrary it may be said to be disadvantageous for we may have to show courtesy to our guests and avoid any controversial issue."

This correspondent told him that there was enough confusion in the world of sport with just two categories—amateurs and professionals, and this had led to a new phrase—shamateurism. The licensed player having caused more confusion, could not the category be abolished?

Mr Ahmed said that this was not possible since "The IBF is dominated by Europe and everything is done to favour their players. Each badminton body in Europe would like their players to benefit monetarily as much as possible."

**PARTAB RAMCHAND**



**JANE WEBSTER**  
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

# HOLMES : LOOKING FOR RESPECT

GEORGE K. GEORGE examines what the future holds for the WBC Heavyweight Champion

ONE of the most popular night club comedians of the United States, Rodney Dangerfield makes his money by playing on his theme "I don't get no respect." Rodney has been making a fortune with that line for decades.

If Larry Holmes could borrow that line, it would give him a perfect slogan. After defending his world heavyweight championship for the twelfth time and compiling an impressive 40-0 unbeaten record, he is still muttering "I don't get no respect."

No other heavyweight has achieved these two feats. Nor has anyone held the title so long. Even after the long-awaited victory over the Great White Hope (according to Holmes' "Dope") Gerry Cooney, his first words were "son."

"I feel good because I achieved something again," he said as he opened his remarks after the title fight against Cooney. "I proved all the niggers wrong, even my supposed best friends would not stick with me in my career. They had seen an opportunity to take a shot at me, so they did, because they felt somebody was going to take my place. I understand it as business. But I don't feel business is good when you mess with people's lives. My dream always came true. I dreamed that I'd be the heavyweight champion of the world. I am the heavyweight champion of the world. I hope Gerry Cooney knows now who Larry Holmes is."

What of Holmes? Which critics did you prove wrong? Almost every boxer expert had predicted your defeat. Who's coming around with you now? Who denied that you are the champion of the world? Why this explosion of excitement? 10 million dollars? Well, Don't sound like a sum loser, but talk like a champion.

The fact is, though, Larry Holmes cannot. He is paranoid. He suffers from some kind of persecution complex. He feels insecure as a champion. After every win he still feels the urge to prove himself. It seems like every time I go on the stage, I have to continue to prove myself,"

he added at the same Press conference.

"I'm sorry I'm not Muhammad Ali, I'm not Joe Louis, I'm not Leon Spinks. I can't continue to prove myself again and again. I wasn't born to be those people. I was born to be myself, Larry Holmes."

The tragedy of Larry Holmes is that he just cannot live according to that fact, which he admits verbally. For a long time, he tried to act and talk like Ali (to whom he worked as a sparring partner). Though he had excellent boxing skills, he did not have the charisma of Muhammad Ali.

All his life, Larry Holmes wanted only one thing other than the heavyweight championship of the world: to be the people's champion. He has proclaimed himself in that capacity after every victory. But no one apart from himself and his patron Don King has taken him by that title.

After beating Cooney, Holmes would say, "The hype is over and what is left is that I proved that I'm the people's champion and a fighting champion. I never neglected anyone who was a legitimate contender. I gave all the lights a chance to take my title away." An obvious dig at Ali, who did not offer him a fight for a long time. Finally, when Ali did condescend to fight Holmes, he was already on the verge of yet another retirement.

A fighting champion, yes. But the people's champion? "You must say that acceptance is there," said Don King. "But if it isn't, respect is. You have to say that he proved beyond a shadow of doubt that he is a champion, a champion, but more than that, a people's champion." Don King must be kidding. It is he forgotten the chant "Ali, Ali" during the Ali-Holmes fight. Didn't he hear the "hoos" that greeted Holmes as he stepped into the ring at Caesar's Palace a few days ago to defend his title against Cooney? Did the crowd ever chant "Holmes" even once? Did he hear all the "Tuck, Tuck" and "Cooney, Cooney" chants even in the Don King country of Las Vegas?

King must have seen the rousing

welcome that awaited Cooney on his return to New York. One has never seen such an enthusiastic ovation for a loser. Even in the television interviews after the bout, Holmes has been repeating his "no respect" chorus. And that is not helping his image at all as champ.

In fact, Larry Holmes deserves a little more respect. He did not deserve the boos at Las Vegas. He is certainly more than a shadow of Muhammad Ali and a precursor of Gerry Cooney. Cooney is the public's favourite despite defeat and a rather dismal track record.

Somewhat he lacks the charisma of a popular champion. Even Leon "Nem" Spinks seems to have enjoyed more popularity in his championship day. After imitating Ali for a while, Holmes tried to project himself as a clean, simple human being and an ideal family man.

"Larry is basically a simple guy," says his mouthpiece, Don King. "He lives modestly, he still lives in the same town, he doesn't have a big head, he's not a publicity hound. The trouble is that Gerry Cooney is all this and more."

"He doesn't like to get his pictures on magazine covers," adds King. But at the post-fight conference, Holmes took a jab at the magazines: "You can take *Sports Illustrated* and shove it," he said. "You can take *Time* magazine and shove it. It's not 'Larry Who?' any more. It's Larry Holmes, heavyweight champion of the world."

Both magazines had featured Cooney on the cover. *Sports Illustrated* wanted both fighters to appear together on its cover. The photographer wanted Cooney on the left side and Holmes felt that the left side belonged to the champ. *Time* featured Cooney with filmstar Sylvester Stallone.

Holmes is also evidently annoyed at the fact that Cooney and even his mother are getting some television commercial. Actually, a number of white sportsmen have got TV commercials. But so did a number of blacks: Sugar Ray Leonard and his little son have appeared in several popular commercials. It is also a

question of the promoter's ability to get the extra income for their fighters

The champion was not at all happy about the parity of pay in the recent bout. He says that in the event of a rematch, he would demand at least 10 dollars more. Holmes wanted more money than the challenger. But Cooney's management wouldn't settle for anything less. Don King says that he convinced Larry "he can make more money with Cooney at parity than he can with any other fighter."

King was quite right. The fight broke all previous records. At Madison Square Garden, New York, it collected over one million dollars in closed circuit revenues. Holmes couldn't have done that with any other opponent.

According to King, Holmes had another motive in fighting Cooney on parity. "He wants to strike a blow for the little man, for the proletariat of the world." The trouble is that the young construction worker, the son of a blue collar worker of New York is as much part of the proletariat as the son of a sharecropper from Pennsylvania.

Besides, the public is not as stupid as Don King thinks. It may not be very moved by the magnanimity of a millionaire who demands 10 million dollars for a fight. It is a shame that the proletariat cannot afford the minimum 30 dollar closed circuit television fee imposed by Don King's company, to watch the great fight undertaken on its behalf.

As the little man's hero image does

not work, Holmes tries to project himself as an example for the whole world. "It's what you do outside that makes you a champion," he says. "Leon Spinks got drunk and got arrested. Set a bad example. You don't hear things like that about me. I set good examples for Boys Clubs. I give talks to many white organizations. I feel good about me."

In spite of all his boasting about himself, even Muhammad Ali never sounded so self-righteous. Statements like this only take away the dignity that Larry Holmes has. Suddenly he is being overshadowed by a challenger who lives a dignified life. Cooney also is a family oriented person.

The two men met for the first time in a restaurant in Mexico City during a convention. Holmes started the exchange.

"You're stupid for a white boy."

"Who are you? Who are you?"

quipped Cooney.

"Everybody knows who I am," replied Holmes.

"Who are you," Cooney.

"I am the heavyweight champion of the world," said Holmes.

"You need me more than I do. Don't forget that," Cooney reminded.

And they were at each other's throats in a moment. WBC president Jose Sulzman who tried to break it up, got a bloody nose. But the fight was prevented for the time being.

Incidents like this created a lot of animosity between the two. Cooney feels that Holmes does not behave like a champ. He has no admiration

for a champion who talks like a punk, he says.

Larry Holmes is one of the best fighters of this century. He may even be remembered as one of the top ten in boxing history. But he doesn't seem to be cut out to be the "People's Champion."

In spite of all his skills, he lacks one thing—class.

At this point, Larry Holmes does not know what to do next. He still feels that he has something to prove. What it is, he is not sure. He would certainly like a rematch with Cooney. No other opponent could bring so much money and publicity. Or he could take on Mike Weaver and unify the WBA and WBC heavyweight championships of the world and retire as the undisputed champion of the world. He will be the first undefeated champion of boxing history.

He could also fight one of the other contenders like Michael Dokes, a very talented young man who holds the No. 2 challenger spot. Or he could have a rematch with Trevor Berbick, the only man to go all the way with Holmes in a title defence. Berbick, who put Ali's illusions of another comeback to rest, is a black boxer from Canada. He fought as an undercard before the Cooney-Holmes fight and knocked out promoter Greg Page with an impressive performance. Page, who had an unbeaten record till then, could be another opponent Holmes could consider.

Or at 32 he could take his millions and return to Easton, his home town and call it quits and be remembered by history as the undefeated heavyweight champion of the world. No one has held the title for such a long spell since the long reign of Joe Louis. But the money and the urge to prove himself may not keep Holmes going.

His patron Don King has certain grand schemes. He also controls Dokes. Will he match the two at the risk of Larry Holmes being beaten by the youngster? Or will he match Holmes against Weaver, unify the titles and then reschedule Cooney-Holmes II?

Don't be surprised if King tries both. First, Holmes vs Dokes, then Holmes vs Weaver, and then a rematch for Cooney. That will make him the undisputed promoter and biggest money-maker in recent boxing history. Holmes will have the satisfaction of offering Dokes a chance. He wouldn't like to be accused of avoiding Dokes.

But three such fights could be a little too much for Holmes. All these three men are dangerous. Weaver and Cooney are going to make the mistakes in their second meeting with Holmes.

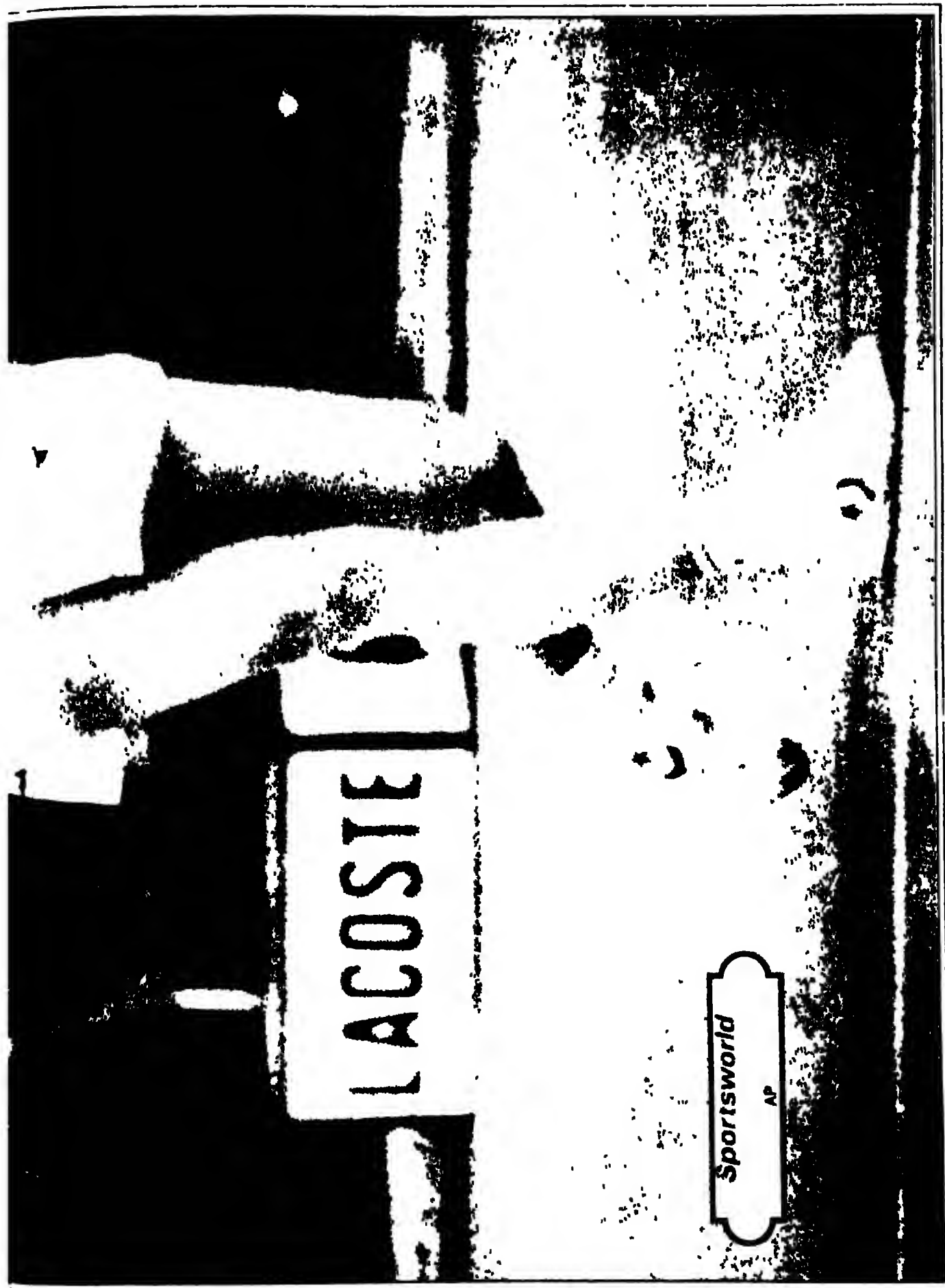
Hey, Holmes. Just forget Rodney Dangerfield, take Woody Allen's advice—Take the money and run.

Larry Holmes, the champion boxer









LACOSTE

Sportsworld  
AP

# McEnroe should win again this time

GEORGE K. GEORGE previews the U.S. Open tennis tournament

ON 30 August the caravan will move into Flushing Meadows. The richest pasture of tennis will wait with a \$1,200,000 in prize money. There is hardly any meadow there if you look for the real green. In fact it is barren and eight storied tennis stadium housing the national tennis centre. The courts layered with deco turf instead of traditional grass and on top of there will be 20,000 screaming fans, at least, on the last two days. The planes landing at Laguardia Airport, the New York subway trains and the noisy Long Island railroad will combine to provide the strangest orchestration of noises blending with the loud chants and screams of the players.

In short, it will be the opposite of Wimbledon every way. The Louis Armstrong stadium at the Flushing Meadows Park in New York City has very little tradition. It has been a stage for the tournament only for the past four years. Forest Hills having the honour of being the home of the U.S. Open until 1978. Congestion went along with the latter and it had to

give way to the space by Flushing Meadows.

The one man, who would love to be there more than anybody else in the whole world will be missing. The Meadows will miss him as much as he will miss it. Bjorn Borg will have to wait another year for the only eluding dream of his life.

Next to Borg there are only two other people who would give their lives so to say, for this year's Open Titles. Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova. Perhaps the only remaining ambition in Connors' life is to regain the U.S. Open, his favourite title and then keep playing tennis for sheer enjoyment and money. Similarly, Martina Navratilova, a strong American at heart, would love to capture the Open. This tournament has meant a lot of memories for her. It was during this tournament that she defeated Agneta, last year, the Open was the turning point in her career as Renee Richards took over as her coach then. For Navratilova the most opportune moment to win the title was last year just after she

had gained her long awaited U.S. citizenship. But in the final set, Tracy Austin destroyed that dream. But the standing ovation that the crowd gave her after it, endeared her to the tournament and its crowd.

A week ago, I would have foreseen Jimmy Connors and Martina Navratilova as the possible winners. With the quality of tennis today and the minute gap between the top men and women players, it is really ridiculous to make predictions. Still, Martina holds the trump card for this year's Open and should win the title she so richly deserves. She will have an added motivation this year as this will be the last major hurdle between her and the Grand Slam. With the support of Richards and her friend Nancy Lieberman, Martina is bound to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Before the Canadian Open which concluded on 15 August, Connors looked well set for the U.S. Title. He beat Borg in the two exhibition games they played and it was not that Borg, who was rusty from the long hiatus, had played badly. In fact, he had played brilliantly. But Jimmy Connors came back from Wimbledon with that extra edge that was needed to dispose off the great Swede. Connors also beat Brian Gottfried in the finals at Columbus, Ohio, to clear the only tournament he played since Wimbledon to bring the tally of his Grand Prix wins to six this year.

In the Canadian Open he withdrew from his semi-final match against Vitas Gerulaitis. From the beginning of the tournament at Toronto, he had suffered from a strep throat and a sore back but won his four matches comfortably. His withdrawal was a surprise to the tournament organisers. A win over Lendl, who had beaten McEnroe, in the other semi-final could have been the best boost for Connors before the tournament in New York. But on the other hand, there was no point in playing against Gerulaitis or Lendl without being in shape. Such a loss could have been demoralising. Personally, I think the default at Toronto is going to cost Connors the U.S. Open title as it is a definite edge for Lendl to avoid a clash with him.

It would be wonderful if Connors won this title for one last time. He deserves it. But I am afraid that the title is going to be bagged by either John McEnroe or Ivan Lendl. The

McEnroe



pressures of having been at Wimbledon are also going to affect his performance. But a lot will depend on his physical condition. If he is in a peak condition, he could still pull it off.

Lendl took McEnroe apart in the Toronto semi-final with some brutal ground strokes. He broke him thrice to score a 6-4, 6-4 win and McEnroe could break his service only once. Lendl says that last winter he made it his main goal to beat McEnroe and practised intensely to face left-handers. "Before, I couldn't even touch his serve," says Lendl. "But in the winter I practised two to three hours a day with a few left-handers who would serve and volley against me."

"I have learned that a good return is the key to how to beat him. I used to watch tapes of our matches, but I learned that you cannot read his serve from his body because he turns his back to you. You have to watch the ball."

There was one incident in their last clash that should provide a shock treatment for John McEnroe. There was a gesture of utter contempt from Lendl and the former is not the type that forgets such things easily. It came immediately after Lendl's first break in the seventh game of the first set. As Lendl led 4-3, McEnroe was holding a break point. Although he had the entire court area open to place his shot, Lendl drove the ball directly down the line at McEnroe's body. A quick move saved McEnroe from the fierce forehand and the ball jumped crazily off his racket.

McEnroe was evidently shaken up. "He's done this to me in the past," he said. "I didn't expect him to apologise to me because when you're deliberately going for someone it would be rubbing it in to say you're sorry afterwards." Lendl's reaction was as incisive as the shot. "Nobody asked him to come to the net anyway."

John McEnroe was not a sore loser. "I can think of 15 excuses, but right now I have no claim to be the number one player in the world with the way I played," he said. "I was not playing with the intensity I need to beat him. I have to be into it more."

Although Lendl has conceded only one set to him in their last five encounters, John McEnroe will be able to "put more into it" in his own backyard. It is true that he has been sluggish even before Wimbledon. Things have not improved since either. His physical condition is not at its peak. He seems to have lost his appetite, too. But the Toronto experience should provide him the incentive. McEnroe is too much of a professional to let himself slip at the best years of his life.

While his track record in the Canadian Open is not so great, it is fantastic at the US Open. In 1979 he beat Connors in the semis and Gerulaitis in the finals. In the following



Martina Navratilova

year he repeated the semi-final win over 'Junbo' and conquered Borg. Last year, he steered past Gerulaitis before overcoming Borg who had beaten Connors on his way to the finals. Though he was trailing against Juan Nunez and Ramesh Krishnan in the early matches, he came true at the critical moments and hung in there. He should do the same this year.

Ivan Lendl is a blazing fire right now and can, thus, consume most players. He does not defeat them, he just destroys. Still, I wonder if the time has come for Lendl to win the Open. Personally, I don't think so. It is almost insane to make such an assertion as aforementioned but I would stick to it.

The Lendl-McEnroe-Connors triangle and their animosity for one another will make the men's competition exciting and fierce. I cannot imagine anyone else as a top contender, except, perhaps, Vitas Gerulaitis, another local boy. If there is one major tournament that he should and could win to make the future generations recognise him, it is the US Open. He is so greatly talented, but his free spirit almost always prevails over the athlete in him.

The sensation of the pre-Wimbledon season, Guillermo Vilas who won the US Open in 1977 by beating Connors, is in a very bad slump now. His loss against Wilander at the French Open seems to have hurt him much. Recently, he lost an early round match in the US clay court championship to another Swede, Hans Simonsson (20). Nor

can I imagine other clay court specialists like Jose Luis Clerc and Jose Higuera making their way into the finals at the Meadows.

It will be too much to expect major upsets from Gene Meyer, Brian Teacher, Eliot Teltscher, Eddie Dibbs or Gottfried. Only Tanner still seems to have the resources for something like that. I would expect more from younger American players, especially Jimmy Arias who just turned 18, the mighty Chip Hooper and Tim Mayotte.

Of course, then there is Mats Wilander of Sweden. He is in a slump, too. At present, the youngster is going through the most difficult period of adjustment that no tennis player in recent history has experienced. He needs time to pull another major victory. The US Open title seems a little too much too soon for young Wilander.

In the women's section the two legitimate contenders besides Martina seem to be Chris Evert Lloyd, an 11-time semi-finalist and the reigning champion Tracy Austin. The young Californian, who had a poor Wimbledon, is working like a maniac to defend her title though her physical condition still looks suspect. It looks very improbable for her to repeat last year's last comeback. Martina Navratilova is too strong, mentally and physically and unfortunately Tracy Austin is terribly out to practice to cope with her.

Chris Lloyd will be Navratilova's major hurdle and it looks as if she is the only one who can stop the Wimbledon champ. Remember, last year what Evert did to Mandlikova at Wimbledon? The youngster had humiliated her at the French Open. Chris Lloyd just blew the kid off at Wimbledon. Navratilova better be prepared for such a revenge. The only ingredient that is missing in Chris now, Martina has in plenty: desire. That might make all the difference this time.

Andrea Jaeger and Pam Shriver will also do their part. Zina Garrison and Kathy Rinaldi will steal the attention of the crowd as they did at Wimbledon while Hana Mandlikova seems to be lost somewhere along the way. Wonder if she herself knows where.

The US Open is an incredible experience. Stars folk together for the tournament of the champions at Forest Hills and at the Masters in the Madison Square Garden, too. But things just don't happen there. Champions are born at places like Wimbledon and the Flushing Meadows. It is competitive tennis in its most off-beat form. Purists of the game hate the night matches under floodlights, the bouncy fast artificial surface, the noise that surrounds the stadium and the unorthodox crowd which may look almost uncouth to British tennis fans. Well, that is professional tennis today, tennis as a spectator sport.



**CALCUTTA FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

# Disgrace in defeat

**EAST BENGAL:** With their goal—the league championship—drawing near, the home team looked bubbling with confidence and determined to remove whatever obstacle was still standing in their way. And Tollygunge Agragami was, indeed, thought to be a hard nut to crack. But the proceedings did not seem to be as tough for East Bengal as it was anticipated to be, with the Agragami players failing to live up to the expectations both in the defence and offence. On the other hand, East Bengal made it a point to maintain good coordination between the half liners and the forwards, the lack of which has proved a constant source of trouble for them throughout the league championship. Moreover, the deep defenders also were always forthcoming to help their colleagues upfield bring variation in the attacks.

The result was a number of well concerted attacks which could have made East Bengal's margin of victory much bigger than mere goal, but for Arup Das's poor marksmanship. However, it was he who scored the all important goal, for his side, but the chances he missed were only to be seen to be believed. Twice he hit the crosspiece, the second time from about two yards only.

On the other hand very little effort was there on the part of the Agragami players to come back into the game. Though on a few occasions they came quite close to the striking range, never did they look serious enough to create really dangerous situations for the East Bengal custodian Biswajit Das.

On the East Bengal side, the player who tried sincerely to improve his performance, which did not reach the expected heights in a few matches previously was Kartick Sait. He positioned himself well, whenever the situation required him to and essayed a number of clever passes from the flank. And it was from one such centre from Kartick that Arup could clinch the issue for his side.

**MOHAMMEDAN S C** The intemperate supporters once again gave vent to their cowardly feelings when linesman Bimal Chakraborty was a victim of stone throwing from the green galleries during the home team's encounter with Aryan. But the home team's club officials and players were prompt in rising to aid to the linesman. What followed thereafter was history. With a hand-daged head the linesman was reluctant to wave the flag from the green stands and chose to do duty with his other colleague from the same side.

Ridiculous this. One can come to the conclusion that pleas from club officials and even police action means little to these fanatics. The outcome is that they have earned a very bad reputation this season where hooliganism is concerned.

Having already lost two matches—against East Bengal and Railway I C being awarded full points by the IFA league subcommittee—a third defeat would be too much for the black-and-whites. The match was tense and there was a general feeling that it would not end. But young Amitava Roy did a wonderful job and even went to the extent of booking two Mohammedan S C players, Debasis Roy was shown the yellow card for arguing with the referee which means that Debasis will not be able to play in the next match as he was booked in the earlier tie against Mohun Bagan. Satyajit Mitra was also booked for hard tackling. Referee Amitava Roy needs to be applauded for keeping things under control in his first big match.

If the home side lost it was partly their fault. They have now lost eight points so far. This match was a real study in contrast. Their brilliant performance against Mohun Bagan three days ago was a complete reversal against Aryan. One would not believe that it was the 'hangover' but more the lack lustre and inconsistency that irritated the fans. It was pointless to have fielded indisposed Majid and Moidul, though the latter negated some of the dangerous moves by the Aryan forwards while Majid was bottled up by stopper Jaydeb Chakraborty. But on the whole both sides performed lackadaisically. But the Aryan boys had better share of the exchanges giving the home defence a trying time. Aryan could have taken the lead in the first half but Moidul averted an open chance. Midway through the second half Aryan scored the all important goal through Subhas Modak. Mohammedan S C too had their chance prior to conceding the goal when Soimenath Banerjee put the ball into the Aryan net but the referee disallowed it because Banerjee had fouled custodian Lakhan Bose! The goal seemed to be a controversial one because when Mori Singh essayed the centre the ball was handled by Moidul and the advantage rule was perhaps applied. A cool Modak made no mistake. But Moidul cleared all doubts about the goal by saying after the match that he had not handled the ball.

But there was one man who was extremely happy. Aryan coach Ramdas. It was sweet revenge for Aryan as they lost by an identical margin last season. "I just can't express myself. I am really thrilled by this triumph," said Ramdas.

**SUBHASH SARCAR and  
SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL**

*Mohammedan Sporting versus Aryan in which the latter won.*





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## Maidan musings

**T**he season has come down, the excitement is over, the tension is slackened and the minds of the winners are happy. Now there is peace everywhere. No thunderous roars, no poise of crackers, no brickbattering and no stomping of the fresh innocent grass under the harsh iron shoes of the police horse—only calm, calm, calm all over. Now only lambs will graze, vagabonds will wander about and for the next few weeks the vast greens of maidan will be relaxing to the sweet lullaby of the monsoon wind. A short cool nap before the IFA shield battles begin.

In the last two weeks a mood of holiday had descended on all the camps which were only a few days ago alive with footballing activities through the most part of the day. Practice went on in full swing, the veterans, the authority-wielders, sat in frequent conferences to discuss and invent newer and newer strategies to ensure success; newsmen hovered around in search of opportunities to become Bob Woodward or Karl Barnsteins and as usual the omnipresent creatures on earth called 'chamcha' were always there hanging around the big bosses to devour the leftovers on their masters' lunch plates.

In fact, this year there has been a noticeable in-

crease in the number of sycophants in the three big clubs, especially East Bengal. Always boastful of their high connections, these pitiable creatures behave as if they were the de facto rulers of their organizations. Far from that, the truth is, they are mostly self-seekers at the expense of the club's interest. But they manage to hide their actual motives by doing a lot running-about and thus showing how enthusiastic they are about their clubs' well-being. But the result in most cases has been the players have often found it difficult to breathe freely, undisturbed by these over-zealous 'well-wishers'.

Anyway, picking up the thread from where we made a brief digression, with the league issues almost decided, most of the teams slackened their belts a bit, though a number of engagements were still there to be played. East Bengal, sure of their success which they were deprived of for a number of years, were busy chalking out their plans for the victory celebrations and a visit to the tent always held the possibility of being treated to a plate or two of sweetmeat. In the Mohammedan Sporting camp the atmosphere was one of despair with most of the players in a going-home frame of mind—probably the main reason for

their further disgrace at the hands of Aryans.

But sweating was very much on in the Mohun Bagan ground. The successful can spend a minute or two in relaxation, the hopeless can give up. But for the ones who could have averted their failure, not a minute is there which they can afford to waste.

### The hawk-eyed guest

**T**HE protagonists and prompters of the soccer drama of the city have fallen victim to a strange disease of late. By the former I mean those famous people who actually enact the plays on the grounds and the latter undoubtedly stands for their guardians—the big shots of the various clubs—who pull the threads from behind the stage and decide which side the tide should turn.

These days members of both these clans are suffering from an ailment, called media-shyness. Normally known as publicity-seekers, they have suddenly developed an aversion towards the Press. The reason, perhaps, is the lack-lustre performances put up by their boys in the current league. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the standards of football displayed this year were terribly dis-

appointing to many, especially the knowledgeable connoisseurs, who have memories of much superior class of ballplay, witnessed nowhere else but the same enclosed arenas where this time they had to sit only to yawn in extreme boredom and curse the hapless creatures running about on the field.

All this, naturally, drew some fire from the soccer critics of the city's leading publications. And tolerating criticism is a virtue rarely practised in its soccer world.

Added to it was the phenomenon of 'arranged matches'. People having their own axes to grind might come out to the defence of those who have been seen arranging such deals too blatantly to turn the eyes elsewhere in search of more dignified things. But it is doubtful if their loud voices and impassioned rhetoric will prove powerful and effective enough to bury the truth, which even a teen-age frequenter to the grounds are today aware of quite well.

Now the problem was with such murky dealings going on in full swing, the brokers started looking upon the representatives of the Fourth Estate as secret agents of the 007 James Bond kind, out to catch them red-handed. Hence the policy to cut them dead. After all, with skeletons in the cupboards who can hazard the risk of welcoming a hawk-eyed guest?



**WORLD AQUATICS MEET**

# East German girls create havoc

**W**HEN the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA) gave the final sanction, little did hosts Ecuador foresee the number of problems that would crop up when organising the fourth World Aquatics Championships at Guayaquil. Because of their inexperience, the organisers had to seek advice from several countries as to how to run the mammoth show. Advice was given but unfortunately most of it went unheeded. It was surprising that the world body had to allot the championship to Guayaquil, the biggest city on the coast of South America where there were extremes of wealth and poverty. Besides, it also has the distinction of the highest number of petty offences and juvenile drug addicts. No wise visitor among the 2,000 entrants from 57 countries for the event dared risk strolling alone on the streets even during daytime, leave alone at night. A German swimmer however, did go

through the traumatic experience of larceny in spite of the intensive security.

The venue had five marvellous pools for the championship but the water polo goals were not in accordance with international specifications. This was a strange fact indeed. Believe it or not, an SOS was sent to the director of the second World Championship at Cali, Mr Hernando Botero, who literally thought "it must have been a big joke". Realising the seriousness later, Mr Botero came to the rescue. But that was not the end of the problem. A great deal of equipment and clothing were brought from North America and Europe, but there was pilferage on the way.

Even till a couple of days prior to the competition there was utter chaos and many thought under the circumstance that a meet of this size would face a lot of criticism. As a visiting newsman commented "Ev-

erything is mixed up—the event is too big for the country". But the director of the organising committee declared that they would not allow the championship to be shifted anywhere else. The meet would go on as scheduled. The organisers displayed all good intentions but their inexperience proved the bottleneck. Had they followed advice accordingly the championship would probably have been better off.

At least one trend was reversed in South America. At the West Berlin Worlds in 1978, the United States captured altogether twenty golds—11 in the men's and the rest in the women's—to come out top among the participating countries. Four years is a long interim period, but contending nations went the whole hog to snub the Americans. The Moscow Olympics stood in between and the USA had to prove their prowess as the leading country, but the boycott of the 1980 Games by America en-



Ricardo Prado—400 m individual medley star

abled the Soviet Union and the East Germans to call the tune. The boycott did more harm to the American swimmers than good. They had to prove whether they are still superior to the rest of the world. But Guayaquil gave American supremacy a considerable jolt. Although they took the top spot in the men's section, the East German women created havoc. Even then, there can be no room for complacency for the male swimmers as they managed only six gold and lost as many events, which they could have mustered with a little more effort.

The Americans have etched up a name for themselves in the freestyle events but they were rudely shocked although having bettered the 4 x 100 m relay world mark by nearly half a second. They also redeemed themselves further when they established yet another world record in the 400 m (3 19 26) and then went on to clinch the 800 m relay title.

There were several highlights which cannot be overlooked. Britain's Adrian Moorhouse may have ended fourth in the men's 100 m breast-stroke but he had the satisfaction of becoming his country's fastest-ever breast-stroke sprinter with a timing of 1 3 15—which is even better than that of Olympic champions David Wilkie and Duncan Goodhew. It is sheer ill-luck that Moorhouse missed the world mark by 200th of a second, but he is capable of achieving it. USA's Steve Lundaquist has the world record in this event. The 200 m breast-stroke record of Scot David Wilkie—one of the oldest in the record book—was erased by talented Canadian Victor Davis. Experts say that his swim of 2 14 77, which is 0 34 of a second inside the Scot's was a unique feat.

The women's individual medley events were dominated by the Germans, with Petra Schneider—the best swimmer in this meet—wresting both the golds in the 100 and 200 m events. In fact, she gave her team the first gold, beating compatriot Kathleen Nord and defending champion American Tracy Caulkins, by 13 metres and clocking 4 36 10—improving the Moscow timing by 0 19 of a second—while in the 200 m event she returned record figures of 2 11 97.

The Americans were put in the shade in the men's 200 m and 400 m medley. The first shock came from non-entity Brazil, for whom 17-year-old Ricardo Prado proved his potential. With his immaculate style he pipped GDR's J Berndt in the 400 m with a record-breaking feat of 4 19 78. Perhaps Prado might not have smelled the gold had he not trained in Mission Viejo (California). His was a rare triumph for South America as this continent has never had it so good in swimming. The greatest regret for Prado, who has lived in the United States since 14,



Jorg Wothe—men's 100 m freestyle record



Michael Gross—two gold medals

was that he shattered the 1978 world mark which was held by none other than his trainer Jesse Vassallo

Bill Barrett of the USA, too, was astonished by his defeat in the 200 m medley at the hands of Soviet Alexander Sidorenko but one of the most sensational triumphs was in the women's 200 m freestyle After GDR's Brigit Meineke clocked 55.79 for the 100 m gold, she was deprived of first place in the 200 m by Dutch teenager Annemarie Verstappen This, in fact, was a rude shock for the German lass because she had beaten

the lanky Dutch swimmer in the heats But the manner in which Miss Verstappen swam enabled her to beat the two-minute barrier—1:59.53 However, Carmela Schmidt and Petra Schneider gave the GDR the 400 m freestyle gold and silver, respectively The German quartet finished the freestyle events with top place in the 100 m relay The other relay gold too were in their kitty

It was evident that there was no stopping the German girls They had e-written the two back-stroke



*Petra Schneider holds the trophy for the best swimmer She won two golds and one silver setting a record in the 400 m individual medley*



*Kristin Otto—new mark in 100 m back-stroke*

events First it was Otto Kristin who did her laps in the 100 m with a world mark of 1:13.0, while Cornelia Such shattered the 200 m by almost two seconds (2:09.91) American Mary Meagher had fluctuating fortunes in her pet butterfly event She was considered virtually invincible but after taking the 100 m gold she was dumfounded by her defeat in the 200 m by East German Ines Geissler Little did Miss Meagher realise that Geissler would not only surpass her but also break her world record (2:08.66) Honours were shared in the women's 100 and 200 m breast-stroke events In fact, Varganova did herself proud by notching up the first gold for the Soviet Union after putting aside GDR's Ute Geweniger But the German girl was unconcerned by this mild setback as she went on to snatch the 100 m gold

One needs to put in a lot more to be a world beater Soviet Svyatoslav Semenov definitely seemed frustrated because on both occasions in the duel for the 400 m and the gruelling 1500 m freestyle events gold he was brushed aside by World and Olympic champion Vladimir Salnikov of the USSR Nevertheless Semenov has the makings of a champion The tussle for the two men's butterfly golds was on in right earnest American Matt Gribble romped home in the 100 m with a meet record of 53.88 seconds—700th of a second slower than the world mark But the 200 m saw the most successful West German Michael Gross pip the entire field, with a world mark of 1:58.85 Gross went on to pocket another gold in the 200 m freestyle The Americans must have loathed the sight of the West German swimmer beating favourite Rowdy Gaines, who just a fortnight before flying to Guayaquil bettered his own world timing of 1:48.93 by 0.23 second Rick Carey of US won the 200 m back stroke gold in style, with world figure of 2:08.2

So it was a Waterloo for the Americans The biggest setback came in the freestyle events Cornelia Enders gave their country a bag full of golds, while the Mark Spitzes will have to redeem themselves now that all roads lead to Los Angeles

# Misconceptions of sports medicine

UDAYAN SEN

WHAT does Sports Medicine mean to Indians? It is generally understood in our country that sports medicine involves doping and the treatment for sport injuries. When a sportsman gets an injury like a torn cartilage or an ankle sprain during a game, he consults a doctor. The doctor who ministers such injuries is said to be a Sports Physician. This is the general idea about a sports doctor in India. Another question which a physician is very often asked is, what drugs does he prescribe to increase one's physical and sporting performances? A genuine sport physician could never advise his patients to take any drug to improve their performance because all these drugs have their negative side effects like restlessness, tremor, insomnia and excessive speech.

Another thing, every sportsman should know that in international competition doping controls are so rigid that it is impossible to get away with it. In the last Olympics in Moscow a Finnish long distance runner was called up after the event by the Doping Commission, and the athlete was not allowed to leave the Doping Control till he had his urine and

blood tested.

Our country has a population of 650 million. Yet, in the arena of sports and games its display is miserable. In the Olympics its pitiable performance is well known. Contrast this with the records of advanced small countries like East Germany with a population of only 18 million, it bagged as many as 126 medals at the Moscow Olympics. For India it was only one. For most of the European countries the tally was between 15 and 50 medals.

This vast difference is mainly due to two reasons, firstly, the talented sportsmen and athletes of those countries are being trained by their best coaches from an early age. Secondly, their coaching is scientifically programmed, which in modern sports medicine is the direct application of sports physiology and biomechanics in the selection and training of athletes.

In these countries where sport has made spectacular progress the application of the above knowledge is an absolute necessity. It is definitely not a hit and miss approach.

In the Moscow Olympics, Caren Merschuk was 16 years when she

won three gold medals and one silver medal in swimming. The year before the Olympics she swam 8.9 kms a day including Sundays, Christmas and all other holidays. She covered almost 3,000 kms that year. Caren swam the 100m butterfly stroke in Moscow in 1 min 00.42 secs.

The other day I had a few words with Sarmistha Mukherjee who has been representing Bengal in swimming since 1978. She is now 15 years old. She had initially taken up swimming as a hobby at the age of 11. After one year she was approached by coach Anil Dasgupta, who recommended her to take up swimming seriously. Under him she began her training, swimming 2 to 2½ hours a day, 6 days a week, including holidays. She trains regularly for eleven months in the year and swims about 2-3 kms a day. During winter, she does gymnastics, jogging, pulley, wall bar and mat exercises. It is also very important for swimmers to know the physical properties of water, but unfortunately Sarmistha has no knowledge of it. Women by virtue of their sex are at a disadvantage in a very large number of sports. Certainly there are some women who are relatively manly and there are some men who are relatively feminine. There is a wide variation in body type within a given height and weight range, a certain degree of overlapping can be expected. Skeletal differences include a greater bone strength and density in the male and a greater degree of pelvic tilt and obliquity in the female associated with femoral axes. All of these characteristics tend to go against high quality performance in most sports. Where women do have an advantage is in flexibility, since mean joint range is greater, on average women than men. Sportswomen tend to be young, healthy, nulliparous females who must be able to maintain a steady, consistent performance of high quality in which even slight variations spell defeat. It is also known that menstrual hormones play an important role in a sports-woman's career.

In sports where power is a key factor to success, the best women will remain a stroke behind the best men. The girls with substantial muscles should be recommended to sports with emphasis on strength like the javelin or discus.

Sports medicine experts like Liesen and Dalton agree that while women will continue to improve their performances they will never fully overcome disadvantages in size and strength. Bulging muscles do not make a woman as strong as a man. Men have larger hearts and lungs and more haemoglobin in their blood. That means their muscles get more oxygen and that produces more energy.

Man's wider shoulders and longer arms also increase his cleverage and

Doping tests are so rigid that it is impossible to get away. Picture shows a Soviet policeman helping Phil Victor Hogozkin (left) search a case containing anti-doping tests at the Moscow's Lenin Stadium during the 1980 Summer Games.





his longer legs move him farther than women. In long distance running however, women have almost equal footing with men. Recently a Norwegian woman clocked 2 hours 28 minutes in a marathon race held in Helsinki. Women athletes are also less susceptible to injuries. The generative system of a female is far better protected than that of a male's exposed reproductive system. A few sports are more suitable for women because of the anatomical structure. Extra body fat gives a female long distance swimmer better buoyancy in water. Women have beaten the fastest males in the Channel crossing by almost two hours.

To be a good swimmer it is very important to know the physical properties of water in order to be able to move about in it. One should not only know them but also feel them. This is particularly important with regard to specific gravity, Archimedes principle, cohesive force of water molecules, low compressibility of water and pressure conditions in water. Getting used to moving about in water involves a lengthy process of differentiation and development of reflex reactions in response to the external forces and conditions encountered in water. Such external forces are the force of gravity, which one hardly feels in the water as a result of the relations of specific gravity existing in that element. Water resistance which must be made use of in order to propel one's body through water. A swimmer must also overcome unconditional reflexes, notably the labyrinth and balance reflex. He must also learn to control the eyelid reflex whose function normally is to protect the eye from harmful influence by closing the lids at the slightest excitation of the eye. A swimmer should be able to keep his eyes open under water.

To feel safe and act in the water in line with requirements one should meet the following minimum demands. One should be able to jump from a height of 1 to 3 metres in deep water without any fear, dive beneath the surface, open his eyes to find his bearings, assume a swimming position (breast stroke or back stroke) and swim in a definite direction by using one's arms and legs covering a distance of 25 metres and breathing rhythmically in the process.

In the Senior Football Tournament five officials accompanied our National team. Unfortunately neither a physician nor a physiotherapist was sent there. The Indian players received medical attention from the Brazilian doctor who had accompanied the Sao Paulo team. A coach, a sports physician and a physiotherapist is a must with any football team. The players' physical fitness and general health conditions are of utmost importance during such a tournament. Massage of the whole body and warming up before any



India has 650 million people. Result, only one gold at the Moscow Olympics whereas with a population of just 18 million East Germany bagged as many as 126 medals. Picture shows GDR's Martina Jaschke performing for the platform diving gold.

game or event is also essential as it prevents injuries and muscle cramps. In warm countries like India excessive sweating and mineral depletion cause cramps. Prevention has been demonstrated by glucose and salt supplements at half time of the game. The players are given ten minutes of massage followed by a warm up before every game. This is an important measure to prevent injuries.

It goes without saying that a country where the general health of the people is sound will produce proportionately better sportsman than one where the people suffer from undernourishment. The general state of health in India largely explains the poor performances of our sportsmen. Moreover, when our footballers come to practise for the National team it is generally found they are already matured players—full grown, experienced and unable to adapt themselves to any new techniques. Any defects they may have in their shooting, heading or tackling etc. are difficult and almost impossible to abolish. For example, one of our best goalkeepers has great difficulty in negotiating the ball in the air though he is brilliant with ground shots. This serious shortcoming is now beyond repair, no matter how much coaching he receives.

What is even more worrying is the discovery of various diseases our sportsmen suffer from in our Patiala Camp such as anemia and ECG

changes. It is noteworthy that none of these diseases is incurable and proper treatment should immediately enhance the standard of their performance.

We do not have the high technical know-how in our country as in the West, but with our limited resources and scientific knowledge we can—with the help of physiology, physics and bio-chemistry—do a lot more than what we are doing today. If only our sports organisations, the sports clubs, and Government bodies like the Sports Councils could create more system and coordination among themselves, we could definitely achieve a lot more. Today simple coaching is not enough for maximum possible efficiency of an athlete. To get in depth information with respect of functioning of related physiologic process and to guide the coach accordingly, it is necessary to have the specialised tests and interpretations of tests.

Before I end I would like to appeal to the Three Big clubs of Calcutta, to take the initiative to open nursery teams (boys between 11 and 15 years) in football, hockey and athletic. They have also the space in the club premises to have a gymnasium and weight training facilities. The clubs also have the financial backing to provide the boys with regular sports medical check-ups which is an absolute necessity to improve our sports.



"I want to win the Olympic gold. Preferably in the 100m, because I've won the Olympic twice already"—(Decathlete Daley Thompson after having returned from injury to resume his relentless drive for ever-increasing decathlon achievement).



"A caster of spells, weaver of dreams"—(Robin Marlar on Abdul 'Tweaker' Qadir in *The Sunday Times*)

"In my mind I play these shots as straight as possible. I tell myself, don't pick up the bat too high. Feel the ball on the bat man"—(Viv Richards in *The Sunday Times* describes himself before a match)

"I make one clear condition: to be able to work in peace without having to look over my shoulder in the very ambience where I work"—(Enzo Bearzot the coach of the victorious Italian football team after learning that Italo Allodi might once again be appointed as manager)

"A pal of mine left my boots in the hotel and it was too late to go back for them when we discovered it." (Kevin Keegan after he played in borrowed boots for Europe against the Rest of the World)

"Hey, what's the story here? Looks like some out of town convention"—(Two American businessmen overheard outside the stadium in New Jersey where Europe played the Rest of the World)

"Ian Greaves was asked to resign, but he declined and we had no other option but to terminate his services"—(Wolves Club official after the team sacked their manager).

"Chris batting last night" (Graham Gooch on being asked in *The Cricketer* what he likes the most).

"The fans must understand our problems. We cannot play without contracts. If I was injured, I do not know what would become of me"—(Paolo Rossi after his club Juventus had asked him along with Gentile and Tardelli to play a pre-season friendly match before renewing their contracts)

"The hepatitis wasn't strong, but it was the kind that is difficult to get out of. Sometimes you have it all your life. I lost a lot of strength"—(Spaniard Jose Higuera after making a great comeback to win the US Open Clay Court Tennis Championship)

"I am getting out before I finish in a wheelchair, but I am one of the fortunate ones—I have a good job to do as the head of sport and recreation in Swansea"—(Britain's ace hurdler Berwyn Price who plans to retire by the end of the year).

"The wizard of Warwickshire" (John Woodcock in *The Times*, refers to Kallicharran after the latter's brilliant innings against Somerset).



"I don't think it was lack of winter work. Of course, I have learnt a lot here, but how I swam the race wasn't a mistake. I just wanted a medal." (The British hope Adrian Moorhouse, after finishing



seventh in the 200 metres breast-stroke at the World Swimming Championships in Guayaquil, Ecuador)

"Definitely the finest round of golf I've played anywhere"—(Raymond Floyd after returning a brilliant course record of 63, seven under par, at the United States Golf PGA Championship).

"It's always harder to get practice motivated for the last one, but I spent a lot of hours working on my game last weekend while I was at home because I needed it. That shows me I'm still interested in winning a major this year"—(Jack Nicklaus a few days before the US Golf PGA Championship).

"David Baristow is a very valued member of the side and he has two years of his contract still to run, rumours of his departure are completely unfounded"—(Ronnie Burnet, Chairman of Yorkshire's Cricket Committee squashing rumours that Baristow was to leave the county).

"I realise the offer was too good for any owner to refuse; but I still can't help feeling disappointed.

Royal Heroine is the best filly I've ever had and am ever likely to have"—(Trainer Mick Ryan after his ward was sold to Robert Sangster for a 'six-figure sum' and is now to be trained by Stoute instead)

"The problem is that we travel a lot and meet a lot of people. Like when you go to South America, people come up to you with drugs. You just say, 'No,—get away'"—(Yannick Noah in the *Herald Tribune*, on the role of drugs in tennis tour life)



"YOU cannot imagine how big they are"—(Last Bengal coach, Amal Dutta, on Pulak Biswas' legs afflicted by boils)

"TO try to replace Underwood and Emburey in the slow bowling department is very difficult"—(Bob Willis)

"As the gull conceals in easeful glide

The inborn gift to curl and ride

The gale merging the sea-wind's force

With lovely moment on a chosen course

So, in time swoop, he moves to charm

The ball down swirling from the bowler's arm

Along some glissade of his won creation

Beyond the figures' black and white rotation

Recorded centuries leave no trace

On memory of that timeless grace"

(John Arlott on Denis Compton)

# ALL IN THE GAME

## LILLEE IN HOT WATER

*For betting*

**T**he lure of money they could not resist, even when they were busy defending their country's honour against impending disgrace at the hands of their traditional rivals. The Australian ace Dennis Lillee has admitted in his recently published autobiography "My Life in Cricket" that he along with the wicket-keeper Rodney Marsh took bets worth £8,000 on England to win the third Test at Headingley last year. The go-between in their deals was the driver of the bus that used to take them to and from the ground, Peter Tribe.

What could be the natural reaction to Lillee's admission in his country? Obviously disgust and outrage followed by down-right condemnation. Yes, that is the way in which the old lovers of the game looked upon the "sin". "Why tell lies in the first place? It's a stupid, none-sensical thing to do, it's bottom-of-the-barrel—we must stop these fellows", were the angry words of former Test batsman and national selector Neil Harvey. Even harsher was the language of Hunter Hendry, the oldest living Australian cricketer. "Their behaviour is outrageous, they have spoilt the game".

But cricket has become such a big industry that the stars are never in want of big shots to protect them even when they do the most obnoxious things. And here the man who has come to hold a brief for the wrong-doers is one of the top personalities in Australian cricket, the chairman of ACB David Richards. "It is a fundamental goal for any Australian picked to represent his country at cricket to play at his best. The bet was just one of those



things. Betting on cricket matches is legal in England."

Bravo Mr Richards. But is that enough? Perhaps their act is too blatant to be covered up by such a vague defence.

## SCAPEGOAT-SEARCHING

*This time it's umpires*

**A** serious row has broken out in England over the starting time of cricket matches, with players of even the highest standing expressing their disapproval of the 10 o'clock start. Whenever failures come their way, the blame is being put squarely on the 'early start'.

A few days ago Essex were brought on their knees when they managed only 51 runs at the expense of nine valuable wickets in a Nat West Trophy match. Sharp came the excuse of the skipper Keith Fletcher—the early beginning of the game. And the captain was by no means short-sighted in his observations of the problem. He looked ahead and saw no future for this starting time in England.

But the early start was not quite without purpose. It was initiated to ensure that matches could end in good light, which rarely happens in 60 over games. And to add to that problem was the growing trend

of these matches towards a slower tempo.

Therefore, deaf ears are being turned to those SOS appeals with the Test and County Cricket Board ruling out chances of reconsideration or alteration of the present system in the near future. The veterans are never susceptible to excuses. Ray Illingworth, the victorious Yorkshire captain, explained that the early start had been introduced because of the tendency of time wasting which means games were not finished on time.

But cricketers are never short of bones of contention, especially as long as those white-coated luckless creatures are around. When the English came to India recently they did not mince their words when it came to talking about the umpires. The Indians paid them back on their return visit. And now the Pakistanis have joined the fray. Intikhab Alam and Imran Khan, manager and captain respectively of the touring Pakistani team have started their campaign against umpires, choosing Ken Palmer and David Evans, who conducted the first test, as their first targets. They have been charged with inconsistency. No wonder consistency is always on the side of the cricketers; at least, as far as scapegoat finding is concerned.

## UNIDENTIFIED CRICKETING OBJECTS

*Strange ones, too*

**I**N the game of cricket there are oddities in plenty. But the most astonishing and of course amusing of them are perhaps the rites and rituals performed by players before, during and after matches. The game's history abounds in a rec-

dates and episodes of many such peculiarities and those which have not had enough luck to find their place in the carefully-guarded treasure troves in the cricket-lovers' bookshelves remain etched in the memories of those brave cricketers on earth who have dared to translate the beauty of the game into words.

There is Philip Mead, that great cricketer who was known for his queer habit of going through a series of strange movements before taking up position at the wicket. Then there was that giant Denis Compton, the hero of many a legend. He used to swirl his bat at every single opportunity, especially between deliveries, to give his spectators in the stands a few dazzle of sunlight reflected on the shiny parts of his willow weapon.

There were even snake hunters. Remember Ted Dexter, who never resented in his search for vipers on the carpet when howlers made their way back to the top of the bowling mark, planning new strategies to put an end to that seemingly ceaseless prowling about.

Now come to a modern celebrity. Abdul Qadir of Pakistan. What a bewildering walk back he has on the way to his bowling mark, bouncing the ball continuously. When the mark is reached, he begins the run for the delivery though his chest is still turned towards the leg side field. But, when almost halfway through his run up the ball suddenly changes hands—from right to left. How the rest is done is something only he can explain. But the result remains the same—a googly or a top spinner.

But whims are not the disease of the players only. The monarchs of the meadows are not immune to them either. During the first Pakistan England Test one of the umpires was seen holding a light-meter to his ear.

## Sportspeople

### Chen Meikong— China's pride

**B**IDDING goodbye to ideological differences China entered the international sporting arena in a big way. The exposure was tremendous and the sporting fraternity soon realised that China was no easy piece of meat. China today has etched up a name in various disciplines, starting with table tennis climaxed by the blitzkrieg at Novisabad last year. That year too, saw their women's volleyball team win the World Championship in style.

And now China is proud to have Chen Meikong's name in the international basketball referees panel. This is quite an achievement for her. But how did she make it this far? It was in May 1978 during the tour of the American women's hoopsters to her country. In the series, the visitors sustained two consecutive defeats and during the third match the captain of the US team who was also an international referee volunteered to officiate the encounter and sought the assistance of a Chinese umpire. This was quite a bombshell for the Chinese women because till then they did not have a first grade referee.

Someone amongst them uttered Chen Meikong's name. This surprised her a bit. But Chen lived up to everyone's expectation. The bright and cheerful lady in her mid-thirties dived about the court and gave precise judgement like an experienced international referee. Although the US side succumbed to the opponents' pressure the US team skipper applauded Chen's umpiring. "You did a fine job, Chen, and you can very well apply to be an international referee." Chen passed both the practical and theoretical examinations with honours to obtain the title of National Referee in May 1981. In fact, she became the first Chinese woman who was certified by the International Basketball Federation and the world's eleventh woman international referee. She said "It's not the title that really matters. The important thing is to live up to it. And to do so I must go on working very hard."

As a teenager Chen represented her junior middle school in basketball and later enrolled at a physical education school in Beijing. Then she played guard for the Beijing women's team. At present, she is a coach at the Sports School in the capital. As a coach she had to referee her trainees' practice matches. That



was how she came to be inseparable with the whistle. It's not that she has not been jeered by contentious crowds but she affirms that it is more difficult to referee men's games than women's because her authority has been challenged quite frequently by male coaches—and that is embarrassing.

### Meeta Singha Roy opts for Madhya Pradesh

**T**he junior girls' national champion Meeta Singha Roy has left Assam and enrolled herself in class XI at the Central School in Indore. She has decided to play for Madhya Pradesh in future. It ought to be noted that during the end of August she had been selected as captain of the junior girls team for the Ankara (Turkey) championship. This year in the Asian Table Tennis Championship at Jakarta Meeta Singha finished fifth in her section and in 1980 she was sent on a one month stint to Seoul. The sudden departure from her home State has surprised the table tennis fraternity—an added mystery too. Reliable sources, however, point out that Meeta Singha was a victim of the foreigners' wave in Assam. She was not given any cognizance in spite of her good game and she was also deprived of valuable practice. But she has refuted these rumours as baseless and said "I have come over to Indore because of my academic interests. I could not appear for the class IX examinations in 1979 because of the



agitation in Assam. I opted for Indore because there is ample scope of improving my game with the best of facilities being provided here. The people in Gauhati were very good to me and my family who still reside there. How can I forget that I first picked up the racquet in 1979 because of the inspiration of my coach Mr. C.R. Bhowmick, at the Bengali Girl's High School in Gauhati. Another reason for my switching over to MP is that I simply admire Smigdha Mehta's game. I try to model my game on the lines of her and Indu Puri.

Fifteen-year old Meeta is an epitome of a perfectly fit person. In the last nationals at Palghat, she defeated Niyoti Roy of Maharashtra to become the junior champion and to top it all she even reached the pre-quarters in the women's section. A very interesting point that was raised by Meeta was the facility of sending players abroad for coaching stints. "When in Seoul we were made to play among ourselves. The Koreans players had matches with us but surprisingly no Korean coach ever gave us any tips. After we had finished our practice the Koreans would start playing among themselves and the coaches would give them their views," said Meeta, adding, perhaps the language problem is one of the greatest hindrances in our coaching programmes abroad."

Meeta is happy at Indore and recently she won the Indian Overseas Bank tourney sans Smigdha Mehta and Rita Jain, who are abroad. Agreed, that the behaviour of the people in Assam is exceptionally good but then there are some doubts because even Cufew Roy had to come to Calcutta. Nevertheless, with Meeta's inclusion MP now has one of the strongest contingents in the women's and girls' sections. MP has India's No. 2 subjunior Jyoti Mehta, who is also tipped to go to Ankara along with Meeta, Smigdha Mehta and Rita Jain. Except for Meeta the rest are the products of the Indore TT Stadium Club, which has a robot machine, imported tables and all types of racquets which the players can buy. Awards of racquets are made to players who do well at the national level.

Why Madhya Pradesh is in the forefront is because the best training and practice facilities are made available to the players by the Indore club. Even the Korean coach Pak-U-Gil will vouch for this. The brainchild of the club is Suresh Gawde, the chairman of the ITTF Selection Committee. He is a strict disciplinarian and he sees to it that each and every girl who seems promising, plays with the senior men's MP team all the year round. This has helped the girls tremendously, while their counterparts have to depend on themselves.



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## News round-up

### Women steal the show

**MADRAS** The revival of the South Zone Volleyball Championships after a lapse of 15 years could not have been better timed, what with the Asian Games around the corner. And it was with keen anticipation that one looked forward to seeing the progress of the Indian probables in the five-day meet. So, when on the eve of the championships came the announcement that the probables were asked by their coaches not to strain themselves by taking part, there was understandably a lot of disappointment here. However the ban applied only to the men's squad and not the women's and so the championships were not to be without glamour after all.

When they ended, the impression one got was that the championships would not have been all that better even had the probables taken part. For the fare provided was for most part exhilarating, true the odd poor match was in evidence. But by and large the matches were interesting, hard fought and close and the standard was good.

Not surprisingly, the best fare was provided in the women's event. Among the 16 probables for the Asian Games, seven participated in the championships, which was played on a league basis amongst Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra and Karnataka.

Kerala were expected to triumph on the basis of having in their ranks two probables in Sally Joseph and Jayanama and also by virtue of the fact that they were the national champions. But Tamil Nadu, who also had in their ranks two probables in Sumathi and Sreemathi turned the tables on them in a five-game thriller to win the title. The match, even in the eyes of seasoned followers of the game, was the best seen here in a long, long time. The matches were so arranged that Tamil Nadu and Kerala, having scored outright wins over Karnataka and Andhra, met in the final encounter on August 1. It lasted over 100 minutes and there was really little to choose between the teams. The rallies were long and very close. In the final analysis, it was a superb performance by the towering Tamil Nadu captain Sreemathi which tilted the scales in the home team's favour and Tamil Nadu rallied to win 8-15, 15-4, 8-15, 17-15, 15-13.

The men's event, contested on a league basis by the four Southern States and Pondicherry provided only a few thrills. This also turned out to be a two-horse race between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the national



**ARTISTIC APPU** The mascot for the Delhi Asiad will soon be brought to life. The Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister has presented a ten-month old baby elephant which is now being given special training. The elephant—Appu to the world—will garland President Giani Zail Singh at the inaugural ceremony followed by a jig in true Appu fashion. The calf is putting in over seven hours of practice daily.

runners up. Kerala were without five of their star players, all covered by the ban on the probables while Tamil Nadu were affected only by the loss of Sridhar. The Kerala team constituted mostly university players and as such it came as no surprise when Tamil Nadu won 16-14, 15-8, 12-15, 19-17.

As an indication towards our prospects for the Asian Games, the South Zone Championships were only partly successful with respect of our women. It was apparent that the successive camps have done their

game a world of good. "We can feel the vast improvement in our game," more than one player told me. It does look like we can justifiably expect a good account from them in the Asian Games. Regarding the men, of course, no such yardstick could be applied and it could be said, except for the fact the standard on view was not bad. Doubtlessly the probables for the Asiad, had they played, would have provided for better display of volleyball.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

## Enter the professionals

In the early days when cricket was a mere sport, there was hardly any player who was a full professional in a real sense. But there is no doubt that many in those less rigid days were employed for their cricketering abilities and were required to carry out paternal duties connected with their patrons' estate or business.

Historians tell us that 'the 18th century professional was gardeners, groomers, gamblers, cobblers, millers, barbers and so on' for there was not enough cricket and earnings to provide them with a full time occupation even during the season.

No one knows for certain who was the first professional. But Thomas Waymark, of Sussex, was considered the 'father of cricket professionals'.

Waymark was as good an all rounder as he was a gentleman. He was highly respected by his colleagues and adversaries. Such was his popularity that when he fell on his last day's match between the Duke and Sir V. P. Gore, he was scheduled to be played at the very post position.

Waymark was to play. In later centuries, the professionals were employed by Rajas and Maharajas who did not actually promote the game, but tried to glorify their image. In reality, they did more harm than

good to Indian cricket. Among many such instances here is one which, even now, will shock andunnerve every follower of the game. The late Pt. Bhaiji Rao 'Billoo' wrote a book saying that Indian cricket had no future as long as it was controlled by the Maharajas. His stomach ached in Patoda once told Billoo that His Highness was very annoyed with him. The gentleman cricketer that was Billoo, was so distressed and upset that he fled from Patoda overnight and joined Western India Cricket Association (WICA).

After the Independence, tremendous interest in the game was created among the people by media, Public and private sectors began offering jobs to renowned players. Such is the situation now that

cricketers, a pampered lot, get lucrative jobs without having to do any work for their employers. Plenty of instances are there in this country where players do not attend their offices even 30 days in a year and even on those 30 days they literally do not know which are their tables and chairs. They get income tax rebate on their earnings, act as models for advertisements in magazines and periodicals, secure gifts (there are instances when test captains have not given certain gifts to local test cricketers) and their men, umpires, if given out, the poor umpires are naturally tense because the present day captains are so strong in their influence that even Board officials are afraid to raise their fingers against them.

Here are some problems

**Q 1:** What is lost ball?

**A:** The law is enforced very rarely at present because grounds these days are well marked and without any kind of obstruction. It is, in fact, a survival from the days when there were no boundaries and there was long grass on the outfield. Its most likely use at present will be when a ball is temporarily arrested and all an umpire should remember is that the fielding side can call 'lost ball' at any time, but having called the award of six runs counts even if the ball is recovered at once. The law further stipulates that '...but if more than six runs have been run before 'lost ball' is called, as many runs as have been completed shall be

scored. The run in progress shall count provided that the batsmen have crossed at the instance of the call of 'lost ball'."

**Q 2:** The injured striker was out of his crease and the fielding side broke the wicket. In the meantime, the substitute runner and non-striker had completed one or more runs. How many runs shall be allowed?

**A:** No run will be allowed. The law 18 (4) says "if, however, an injured striker himself is run out, no run shall be scored." This should be in conjunction with law 2 (7) (transgression of the laws by an injured batsman or runner).

**Q 3:** Can a non-striker be out on a no ball?

**A:** Yes. He can be run out, handling the ball twice and obstructing the field.

**Q 4:** Can a square leg umpire call no ball?

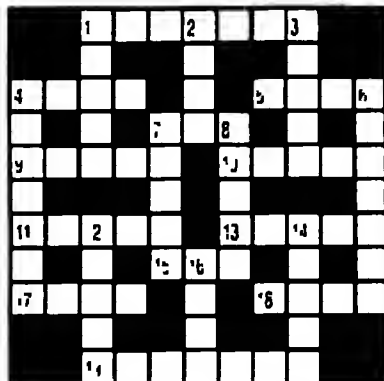
**A:** Yes. If he feels the delivery is not fair and when he finds more than two fielders stationed behind the popping crease on the leg side.

**Q 5:** The new batsman replaces the previous batsman declared out. The fielding side captain withdraws the appeal made against the last batsman. Can this be allowed?

**A:** No this is not permissible. Since the dismissed batsman has already left the playing area, the withdrawal of appeal is not allowed.







ACROSS

- 1 Soviet fencer who died of wounds sustained during a session, this July (7)
- 4 These lines are found on a tennis court (4)
- 5 Cricket rebel and poet too! (4)
- 7 A cricketing Taylor who was in the news this year but not Bob (3)
- 9 A football official of Mohun Bagan Club begins with masculinity (5)
- 10 A baseball term in the plural (5)
- 11 Country where Robin Jackman the cricketer was born (5)
- 13 This Monte is a County cricketer in England (5)
- 15 Former English captain, Lewis when his initials are jumbled up (1 1 1)
- 17 Billiards term which means to daze (4)
- 18 A modern hockey goalkeeper is quite expected to play in this these days returning (4)
- 19 Tennis player Tulasne's first name has a stutter somewhere in the middle (7)

DOWN

- 1 Orantes and Santana had this in common besides Manuel (5)
- 2 Olympic venue in 1960 (4)
- 3 An alcoholic name for one of the Wimbledon champions of the Thirties (5)
- 4 Middlesex batsman of late, whose surname begins with a contracted Thomas (7)
- 6 A football team in England that is United, but not Manchester (4, 3)
- 7 This Hunt a tennis entrepreneur (5)
- 8 A tennis player's name which literally means 'a social assembly for dancing' (1, 4)
- 12 American sports writer originally, who later wrote a couple of books with Mike Brearley (5)
- 14 Ilie Nastase or? (5)
- 16 A sporting princess and also an Olympian (4)

Excellent 22-20, Good 19-17, Fair 16-15

Question box

V Choudhary, Bagusarai

Q Will a batsman be given out if he is stumped off a no-ball?

A No

B Srinivas Rao, Vishakhapatnam

Q How many centuries has Kapil Dev hit so far in Tests?

A Two in 38 Tests, before embarking on the tour of England in 1982

Q How old is the Test cricketer Pranab Roy?

A Twenty five years, five months on 10 July 1982

Dharam Singh Chahal, Barmo

Q How many Indian batsmen have scored five or more centuries in Tests?

A Gavaskar (24), Vishwanath (14), Umrigar (12) Hazare (7), Manjrekar (7), Vengsarkar (6), V Mankad (5) Pankaj Roy (5) Borde (5) and Sardesai (5) at the end of the second Test versus England at Manchester, 1982

Jyotin Rajotia, Indore

Q On which dates did Kapil Dev and Ian Botham complete their 'double' in Tests?

A Kapil Dev completed the 'double' on 31 January 1980 and Ian Botham on 16 August 1979

Atanu Ranjan Tripathy, Nelia

Q Will you please mention the runs scored by Don Bradman against each Test playing country?

A Bradman scored 5028 versus England 806 versus South Africa, 447 versus West Indies and 715 versus India

Q Will you please mention Gary Sobers scores against each Test playing country?

A Sobers scored 3214 against England, 1510 against Australia 404 against New Zealand 1920 against India and 984 against Pakistan

K Hangovan, Pondicherry

Q How many runs Sunil Gavaskar scored in Tests till the Indian team's leaving for England in 1982?

A In 75 Tests he had scored 6718 runs till then

SOLUTION 160

A T I F V C A R  
R J

A K E  
S P I N S R U I A

P Natarajan, Mulbagal

Q How many centuries in Tests have been recorded for India?

A Till the conclusion of the second Test against England at Manchester in 1982, the Indians have registered 137 centuries comprising 127 centuries and 10 double centuries

Q Name the English Test cricketers of Indian origin

A K S Ranjitsinhji, K S Duleepsinhji, Ifikhar Ali Khan Pataudi and R Subba Row

Quiz

by T Ghose

QUESTIONS

- 1 Who is the youngest national champion in the history of Chess?
- 2 Who is the only athlete to have won medals at both winter and summer Olympics?
- 3 When for the first time in the history of freestyle wrestling the event was won by twin brothers?
- 4 Who owns the individual record for participation in the Olympic Games?
- 5 Which was the first Indian team to win the Rovers Cup (Bombay)?
- 6 Name the only country which became both world champions and Olympic champions in men's handball
- 7 Who is the first Indian to take a doctorate degree from Leipzig Sports Institute (DHFK)?
- 8 The person referred to above (Q 7) is officially involved with the IX Asian Games in what capacity?
- 9 In how many countries and on how many continents do a men's (summer) sports have to become widespread for the purpose of its inclusion in the Olympic programme?
- 10 And what are the respective numbers in the case of a women's sport?

ANSWERS

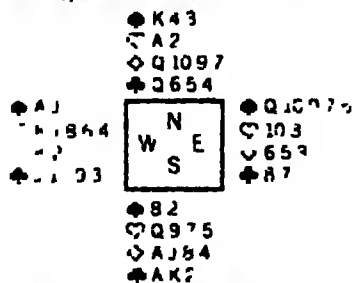
- 1 Garry Kasparov an 18-year-old student from Baku
- 2 Willie O Grul winner of gold medal in modern pentathlon (1948) and silver medal in the pentathlon de-monstration contests in the St Moritz winter Olympic Games several months earlier
- 3 Anatoly and Sergei Beloglazov achieved the feat in the Moscow Olympics
- 4 Ivan Ossiler a Danish fencer (1908, 1912, 1920, 1924, 1928, 1932 and 1948 Games)
- 5 Bangalore Muslims (1937)
- 6 USSR (Olympic Champions 1976, World Champions 1982)
- 7 C M Muthiah (in 1977)
- 8 He is the Technical Director of the Asian Games
- 9 Not less than 50 countries on three continents
- 10 Not less than 35 countries on three continents

A W Bardsley and K Stackpole of Australia, T S Worthington of England, E J Barlow of South Africa, R C Fennell of the West Indies and S M Gavaskar and S S Naik of India were dismissed off the first ball off Test matches.

**Kachadehkana, Calcutta**  
**Q** Has Larwood played against India in Tests?  
**A** No

**Ankur R. Vohra, Bombay**  
**Q** What have been the scores of the following batsmen and in how many Tests did the following batsmen make them S J Snooke of South Africa, B W Sinclair and B R Taylor of New Zealand, L E G Ames, B Luckhurst, P H Parfitt and J Hardstaff of England ?  
**A** S J Snooke of South Africa has scored 1008 runs in 26 Tests, B W Sinclair of New Zealand has scored 1148 runs in 21 Tests, B R Taylor of New Zealand 898 runs in 30 Tests L E G Ames of England 2434 runs in 47 Tests, B W Luckhurst of England 1298 runs in 21 Tests, P H Parfitt of England 1882 runs in 37 Tests and J Hardstaff Jr of England 1636 runs in 23 Tests

You often find yourself faced with quite awkward bidding problems when your partner opens 1NT and an opponent overalls in a suit. You can judge that your side holds the balance of points but to bid 2NT might give up the possibility of a good penalty and might go off if neither of your sides has much in the overcaller's suit. And not to try some feeble four card suit of your own may lead to a silly disaster. Next week I shall discuss a possible solution - this week a typical dilemma.

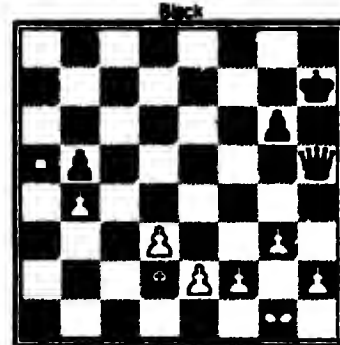


The play was rapid. West led the Jack of clubs, declarer won on the table and took a losing diamond finesse. West switched to the Ace and Jack of spades but it was easy for declarer to judge the position. He won on the table, cashed his minor suit

**This week's quiz.** A curious nightmare! At  
 teams at love all you hold ♠ 7 3 2,  
 ♡ none, ♦ 6 2 ♣ A K 10 9 8 6 3 2  
 You are South and the full orchestra  
 strikes up - West, one heart, North, INT.  
 East, two hearts. Over to you!

**8535 Solution next week**

If Andersson is still doing it not only is he winning great tournaments but he is still producing wins from opening variations that lead to rapid simplification and the absence of middlegame complications. Such a strategy, you might think, would be reserved for use against inferior opponents, but in the following game from the Phillips & Jew Kings the Swedish grandmaster employs it against Tirmman, whose Elo rating is currently the second highest in the world. After the exchange of Queens on the 7th move, Andersson proceeds to hold on to his extra, doubled and isolated pawn and to consolidate his advantage by giving up the exchange for another pawn. In the resulting endgame Black is left without the slightest counterplay his Rooks have no open lines along which to attack and cannot resist the combined action of the white bishops, pawns and King on the Q side.



P - B7 (throat 2 P x B - Qch etc), B x P 2 K - B5 B - Q3ch. 3 K - B4. K - B5. 4 Q - B6

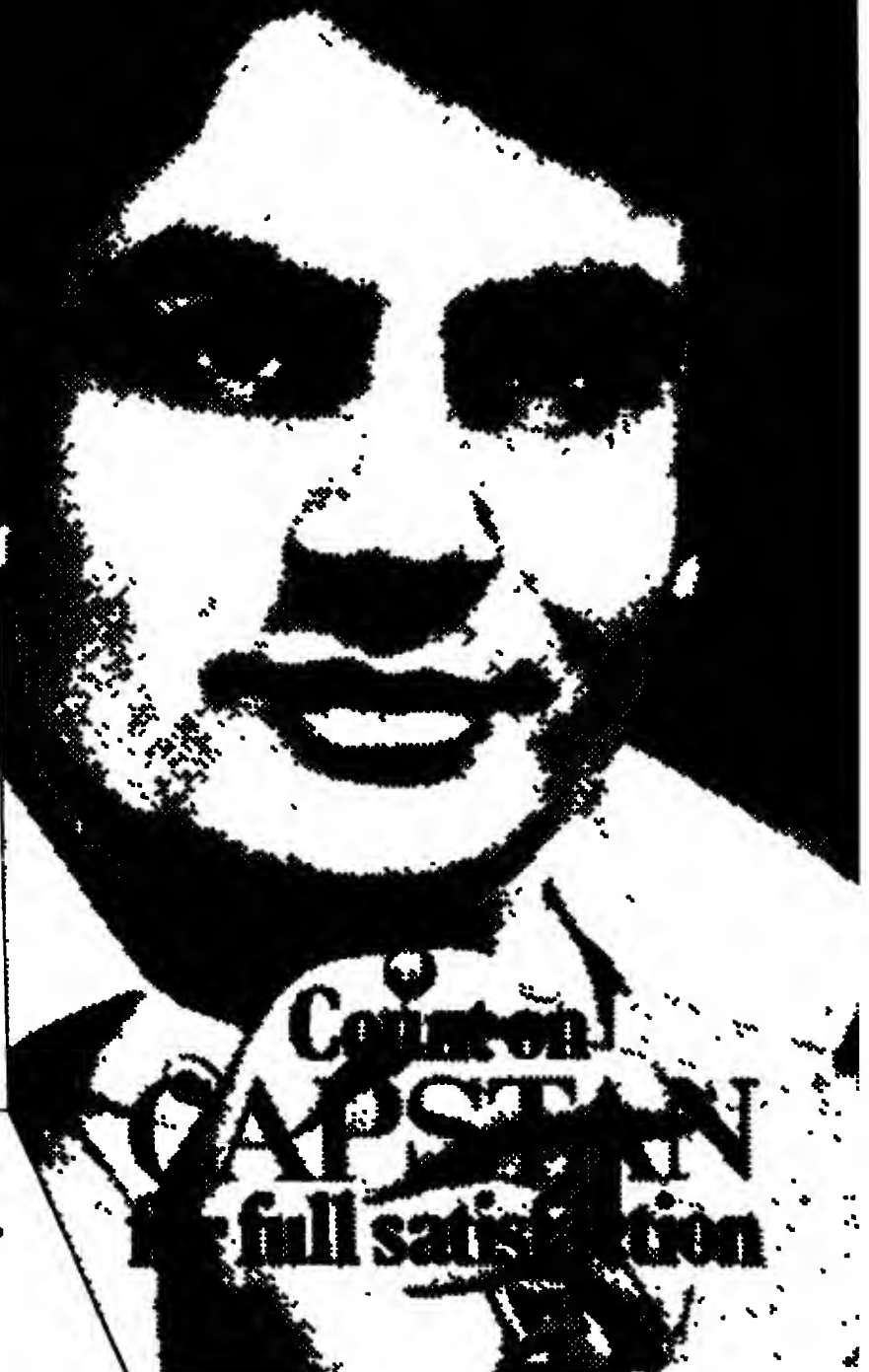
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es-men are ruining  
the game

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- 2 Guard against dental plaque
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**HOW JIMMY AND I WON WIMBLEDON**

This week, we begin extracts from the book "Chrisse" in the first instalment. Chns Evert-Lloyd tells how she and her then fiance, the incomparable Jimmy Connors, took the All-England Club by storm in 1974



**YES-MEN ARE RUINING INDIAN HOCKEY**

The game has been in a sorry state for years, with skeletons tumbling out of the IHF cupboard at regular intervals. A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT discovers that there is still no solution in sight

**ENGLAND WIN A THRILLER**

England beat Pakistan at Leeds and won the series 2-1 but not before the visitors had swung the game their way on the fourth evening. PAUL FITZPATRICK reports



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Cover transparency of David Gower by Patrick Eagar

Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sarker  
Correspondents Bombay Harsh Murwari Madras Ashok Kamath  
Staff Photographer Nihil Bhattacharya  
Art Director Bipul Guha  
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**Letters to the Editor**

**Amused**

IT was a real pleasure to go through the article on 'the stroke player of the decade'—T E Srinivasan. But I was really amused to read the comments on 'T E' the man 'Arrogant and proud'. And T. E? That sounds funny.

How many of us know him as a man? I happened to meet him once at Chepauk during V V. Kumar's benefit match last year. After acquiring his autograph, I asked him, "Seema (as he is popularly known in Tamil Nadu), is it true that you once hooked some of Michael Holding's most vicious bouncers for sixes?" I was indeed surprised to find Srinivasan blinking. Perhaps, he was trying hard to recollect the event. So I had to insist, "When you toured the West Indies with the Hyderabad Blues with Chandra, V V. Kumar and others under Pataudi's captaincy?" This time I was absolutely taken aback when he continued to blink. And after a few seconds with typical Srinivasan grin, he said, "A ah! That was l-o-n-g back" (And all through the conversation he never took his eyes off the game).

When a cricketer of Gavaskar's fame cherishes the memory of his hooks off club bowlers, a look at this cricketer is worth it. He does not even bother to remember hooks for sixes off Holding! What a humble, unlucky and unwanted genius this cricketer is!

MISS LALITHA VAIDYANATHAN, Tirupur

THE interview of Parthab Ramchand with T E Srinivasan was very interesting. I feel that the reasons that Srinivasan mentions in his subtle manner are very much true. I vehemently protest against the Cricket Board's discriminatory attitude and feel that it is becoming increasingly evident that you need a godfather to play in Tests. Poor Sriniva-

san does not seem to have one and that is the big tragedy.

TAPASH KUMAR DAS, Dibrugarh

HATS OFF for the wonderful T E Srinivasan interview. He is absolutely correct when he says that there are some Test players who should not have made it at all. I can name some like Kurti Azad, Pranob Roy, Ashok Malhotra as the prominent example.

Another one that can be added on to the list is that of Yashpal, who just made it twice into double figures in Tests but was still persisted with. Moreover, to go back a little, Srinivasan in New Zealand was not chosen for a particular Test after he had scored 90 against the swinging ball. On the other hand, Kurti Azad got himself a hundred against some old ball stuff and was immediately picked.

B RAMEN RAO, Jamshedpur

**Reply**

I READ with interest Badal Bhattacharjee's letter published in your 11 August issue. In reply to the questions I give below the answers.

1) To say that Vishwanath is vulnerable against rising balls is something to be laughed at. Let me remind Mr Bhattacharjee of Vishwanath's classic innings at Melbourne in 1980-81 against Dennis Lillee. What has Mr Bhattacharjee have to say against Vishy's innings of 75 against the Caribbeans in the one-day international during the last World Cup?

2) May I know where the writer was when Botham, Willis and Allott were bowling in the Madras Test. Vishwanath, let me remind him, made his Test best of 222. Were the balls delivered by these bowlers full-tosses?

Let me thank God that Mr Bhattacharjee has not been born as a selector!

K MOHAN, Udumalpet  
I AM not satisfied with Mr Badal Bhattacharjee's

views. He himself admits that India is failing because Vishwanath is failing. Could there be greater praise for him?

Moreover, let me remind him that in his last nine innings Vishwanath has been scoring with great consistency—15, 0, 112, 74, 1, 3, 54, 56 and 75. His average, thus, comes up to 62.50 which is the best in the Indian eleven at present. I wonder how a batsman can be dropped with such a record to back him.

**NARLISH SACHDEVA,**

*New Police Line*

It was extremely painful to read Mr. Badal Bhattacharjee's views in your 11 August edition. Unfortunately, he does not seem to appreciate the finer points of the game. It must be remembered that Vishwanath is an attacking batsman and that means very much. He is also a marvellous improviser and is a treat to watch. Moreover, Vishwanath's vulnerability against the rising ball is a general Indian weakness. Let me also add that even Ashok Malhotra's favourite batsman is Vishwanath himself.

**C. R. JAYANTH KUMAR**

*Mylapore*

In an interview in the Cricket Quarterly Oct-Dec 1977 issue Mr. Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi had said that Vishwanath and Manprekash were the best Indian batsmen in that position ever. That is no small compliment.

**K. S. V. SHARMA**

*Sakleshpur*

It is really weak against leg spinners and rising balls then how did he manage to hit so effectively against Underwood and Willis last winter? His technique, talent, ability and skill are beyond question. Someday he is bound to retire but it is too early now to bid a goodbye to this touch artiste. And by replacing him with Ashoke Malhotra is highly ridiculous.

**CH. SURYA PRAKASHA**

*Rao*

*Gaya*

THIS letter is posted in protest over Mr. Raddi Bhattacharjee's statements concerning Vishwanath. Has he ever seen Vishwanath bat? Does he

even know anything about cricket?

**H. N. RAMKRISHNA,**  
*Hamburg (West Germany)*

ONE can never forget the man who has saved India from many a crisis. How can I ever forget that great knock of 97 not out against Lloyd's mighty West Indies of his? Can we write off Vivian Richards of the West Indies just because he failed in one or two seasons?

**K. N. RAVI KUMAR,**

*Mysore*

It is not possible to list down the comments of leading players and critics like Bradman, Sir Bobert, Ian Chappell, Tony Greig, John Arlott, Tony Cozier and our own Sunil Gavaskar. But it seems that Mr. Bhattacharjee knows better about cricket than them.

**AMIT GHOSH,**

*Calcutta*

(We have received letters expressing the same sentiments also from *Rezar Ahmad of Patna, Onkar and Indranil Bhattacharya of Serampore, Rajeev Kumar Mehta of Calcutta, V. S. Suresh of Madras, B. Ramen Rao of Jamshedpur, B. K. Padmanabha Rao of Jayanagar, Mr. Vivek of Jullundur, Kamal Bhattacharjee of Calcutta, H. Ravi Shanker of Madras, Ram Prasad Mahab of Durgapur, and Mr. A. K. Singh of Malda*.)

## Confusing

WHILE going through K. R. Wadhwaney's article on cricket umpiring in the *Sportsworld* of 11 August it was mentioned that "One of the celebrated and controversial Test stars of India was summoned by Vizzy to lead U.P. in the Ranji Trophy matches in a match against Rajasthan. Vijay Manjekar was batting."

In this context I would like to state that in 1954-55 Lala Amarnath led Uttar Pradesh against Madhya Pradesh (captained by Ramchandra Deyvecha) at Varanasi and U.P. won the match by virtue of the first innings lead, thus leading to U.P.'s exclusion from the championship.

Then in 1956-57 the great Nayudu led U.P. in three of their matches against M.P., Rajasthan and Bombay, all of which were played at Varanasi. I doubt whether C.K. can be labelled as a controversial Test star.

On all these three occasions I was the stand-by wicketkeeper for U.P. and was also scoring for them. Vijay Manjekar once played for U.P. and when he played for Rajasthan against U.P. it was Ashwin Chatterjee who captained the U.P. side and he never played in Tests.

Therefore, it is not known which celebrated and controversial Test star captained U.P. against Rajasthan which then included Manjekar.

Moreover, in your 18 August issue Sudhin Vaidya has mentioned that R. A. L. Massie of Australia captured 16 wickets for 137 on his debut against England at Manchester. This is not correct. Massie had made his debut at Lord's and had taken eight wickets in each innings there.

**T. D. MUKHERJEE,**

*All India cricket umpire*  
*Varanasi*

## India can make it

FOR long India has tried to make it big in soccer but has not succeeded in doing so for many reasons. The present Merdeka squad led by Bhaskar Ganguli should at least make the last run at the Asiad at Delhi this winter.

**RAHUL**

*CHAND*

*WARKAR,*

*Pune*

## Wake up please

THE newly constituted TAICS and SNIPS—the two wings of the Union Education Ministry who still do not have a national sports policy prior to the Asian Games—will surely not include representatives of the Indian Association of Sports Medicine. This was usual in the past in the U.K. Sports Board which always included representatives of the British Association of Sports Medicine to guide the Government on va-

rious aspects of medicine and problems.

**DR. ALOK GHOSH,**

*Calcutta*

## Wrong

THIS is with reference to the Quiz in the issue dated 11 August. It is stated that the only instance of brother playing on the losing side in a World Cup soccer final is that of the Keighlys, who played for Holland against Argentina in 1978. But the 1982 German side had also included a pair of brothers—Karl Heinz Forster and Brenden Forster.

**JAIMIN M. BHATT**

*Bombay*

SUDHIN VAIDYA is wrong when he says that Clive Lloyd was Bedi's first Test victim. Actually, it was Basil Butcher.

**ANIRBAN PAUL**

*Calcutta*

## 'Sportsman of the Year' award

WITHOUT exaggerating we can say that *Sportsworld* has improved by leaps and bounds. The outer covers have become more attractive while the colour printing has also improved considerably.

But only one thing in which your magazine falls in the arrears is your sustained reticence in electing a Sportsman of the Year in Indian sport. At the end of every year you should present a Sportsman of the Year trophy to the sportsman elected by the readers of your magazine. We think that this will be in the interest of Indian sport and sportsmen.

**MOHAMMAD SAJJAD**

*JAMNAR*

**SARFAT HUSSAIN,**

*Dibrugarh*

## Final say

DESPITE arduous training schedules for the forthcoming Asian Games I cannot see India winning too many medals. The National Institute of Sports (NIS), Patiala, has not been able to produce many gold medalists. I feel NIS stands for Nothing In Sight!

**SUNIL RAMPAL,**

*New Delhi*

# ASIAD VENUES

## Handball at the Delhi University Ground

**T**he infrastructures and the new stadia coming up for the Ninth Asian Games will be a boon for the youth of the country and Delhi University's sportsmen will get one such gift from the Games. Handball, a new Asiad sport will be held in its surroundings at the University ground. Though these are not mandatory sports, the message of the Asiad will reach the very doorstep of the student community.

The University complex, used mainly for cricket and athletics, will have a mini modern stadium. This eight acre stretch of open field will provide seating facilities for 5,400 spectators for handball and 1,400 for archery, with new change-rooms, cafeteria, toilets and a Press centre.

This complex built at a cost of Rs 34 lakhs, was originally slated for only handball but later on archery was also allotted to the University authorities. That led to redrawing of the entire plan. Now the field has been divided into two parts, one for archery and the other for handball. Certain alterations in the seating arrangements have also been made.

The existing building of the University Stadium had a plinth area of 8700 square feet. It has now been extended to provide additional plinth area of 8,400 square feet, in order to provide two

more change-rooms, complete with toilets and a massage room, accommodation for medicare, Press Information bureau, the All India Radio and a cafeteria with 80 seats. The existing building will provide necessary accommodation for the federation, offices, a computer terminal, referees' room, a conference room and two change-rooms. The existing seating tiers is also proposed to be extended to accommodate 1,000 seats for VIPs and high denomination ticket holders. Mr S P Goel, engineer of the Delhi University who has been entrusted this job, said that there being a shortage of water in the area a thorough survey was conducted and an old well at the ground was re-dug. This is expected to solve the water problem. This complex is also expected to provide permanent facilities to

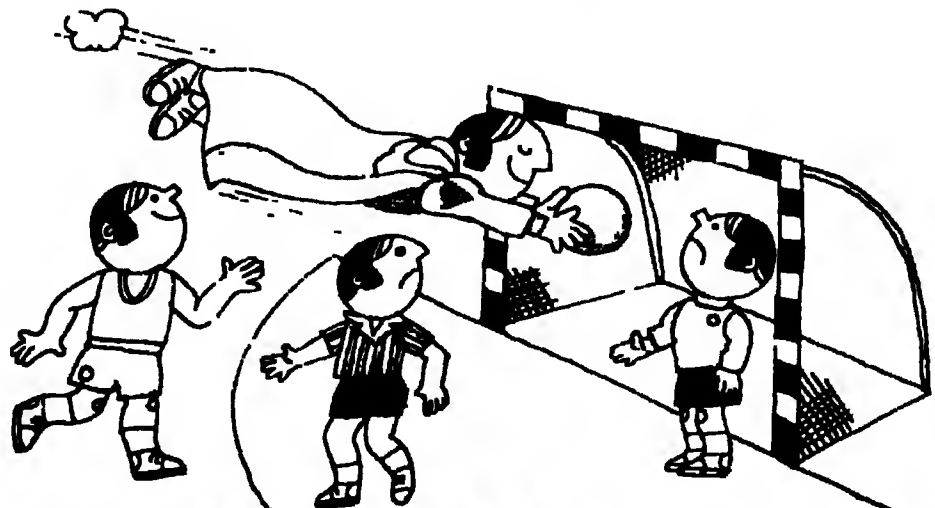
the Delhi University for recreational activities which were sadly lacking.

For the first time in the Asian Games handball as a discipline is being introduced as an official sport. The handball court, which is 20 metres wide with a length of 40 metres will have a synthetic teraflex surface which not only meets international standards but also greatly speeds up this interesting game, considered to be one of the basic sports in European countries. The teraflex surface, however, will have dimensions of 44 metres by 24 metres. This is to assure that the ball does not run into ordinary ground each time it is pushed outside the field of play. The teraflex court—expected to cost Rs two lakhs—on which the actual competitions will be held, and the two practice courts are being

laid just outside the periphery of the main ground so that after the Games the ground can be used for cricket matches.

The French manufactured teraflex court is a gift from Sheikh Fahid of Kuwait, President of the Asian Handball Federation.

Each side plays with a team of seven players and the game is almost like football, except that instead of the feet hands are used in carrying the ball across into the opposite territory. During the Asian Games the handball competition will be contested only by the men. The maximum number of participants from any country are limited to 16 only and the final medals' tally will be 16 gold, 16 silver and 16 bronze. The competition will be held from 23 to 30 November with November 29 being the rest day.



**DUNLOP TYRES lead the way**

# The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

## FRUIT OF SUCCESS

Ipswich Boys attending the football training course received a surprise. They were each given a grape-fruit, not to eat but to juggle on their knees to acquire skill. Scoring goals said star trainer Alan Brazil, "comes easy after that."

## WHIPPING UP ENTHUSIASM

Sydney Norm Waymouth, the owner of champion horse Rancher, was fined \$100 for flourishing his whip as they passed the winning post. He explained to the stewards that he was only waving to his grandma!

## STAGING GAMES

London Pupils at a local school gave the first performance of a new musical entitled United We Stand, which combines soccer with women's lib. If you're unemployed or the wife nags, play the game of kicking a bit of leather about in a field. This play with a sporting theme shows how soccer brings people together. Of course, as we all well know it can also keep folks apart.

## GAMES OF 'KILL

Adelaide Ten members of the Stirling team which plays in the Adelaide Hills Cricket Association competition have been suspended after it was discovered they used a ball doctored with floor polish in a grand final match. This was discovered by scientific tests on the ball after the umpires became suspicious when it did not become damp in wet conditions. The eleventh player was already under suspension for striking the umpire earlier in the game. Despite a secret ballot to find out which of the players had doctored the ball none admitted guilt. Perhaps John we could help?

## BERNIE TELLIS



"YOU GOT ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE IT JUST CAME OUTTA THE WATER?"



"FOUR YEARS OF COLLEGE BALL... MAYBE TEN, TWELVE YEARS IN THE NFL... THEN TWENTY YEARS MAKIN' BEER COMMERCIALS!"



"DON'T ASK US TO INCREASE YOUR HANDICAP! YOUR GAME'LL PROBABLY GET BETTER NOW THAT YOU CAN KEEP YOUR LEFT ARM STRAIGHT!"

# ALL IN THE GAME

## LEAKY BATHERS

*Minding your p's and q's*

**T**HE British—especially the girls—have made urinating into swimming pools one of their many national pastimes. This 'British disease' has reached appalling proportions and all efforts are being made to stop this underwater urinating spree. The water cannot just stand it and the authorities are reducing bathing sessions to just one and a half hours. As one official puts it, "If people had gone to the toilet before coming to the pool it would certainly have helped the water technologists." Larger amounts of chlorine are being added to the water to neutralise the menace. There are people who feel that it is the chemicals in the water that make the throat tickle and the eyes water. They are mistaken. Instead it is the water-chlorine-urine reaction which causes the problems. If swimmers only knew the scale of urinating that takes place in the pool, one is confident they would never go swimming again.

## SWITCHING LOYALTIES

*Keegan to play for £ 100,000*

**E**NGLAND and Southampton's captain, Kevin Keegan, has signed for the second division club Newcastle. The 31-year-old star, as a result of the transfer can expect £100,000 a year, plus salary. His playing at Tyne-side will certainly boost ticket sales as the former double European footballer of the year is a big attraction in England and the Continent. Keegan denied rumours that he had



had a tiff with the Southampton manager Laurie McMenemy and said, "I want a new challenge and I know the passion there is for football in the area." The frizzy haired footballer affirmed that it was his job to make Newcastle great again and his move was not really prompted by the resultant monetary gains. In fact, before going on to make his debut for Newcastle against Queen's Park Rangers Keegan paid his ex-manager a compliment, "As far as I am concerned McMenemy is in the Billy Shankly class." And that's saying some thing.

## STEPPING OVER THE MARK

*New rule for goalkeepers*

**G**OALKEEPERS, please note. Under FIFA's new rule—four steps and then you must release the ball. This has already taken many unwary keepers by surprise. The man standing between the posts for an Irish club was blown up for infringing the rule. He did it again and this time the referee

had to stop the game and explain. Li Fu Sheng the goalkeeper of China's national team did the same. In a match against Ibrox he collected the ball, took a few steps, rolled it forward, picked it up, rolled it again—and 'peep'—he was astonished. However after a few laughs early in the season goalkeepers will soon adjust. One hopes that the new rule will help do away with time wasting tactics, speed up the game and penalise people like Dino Zoff who took as many as 39 steps in the World Cup final at Madrid. The Italian captain was not penalised. This only goes to prove that the man with the whistle is frightened to apply the new rules.



## STUD FOLLOWS SETBACKS

*Golden Fleece retires*

**R**EMEMBER Golden Fleece. The horse that gave trainer Vincert O'Brien his sixth Derby triumph at Epsom in early June. The unbeaten Nijinsky colt will not race again and instead will re-

tire to the Coolmore Stud in Tipperary. A few weeks before the Epsom win it was announced that Pat Eddery's mount was suffering from a nasal discharge and even after the race there was doubt of the colt taking part in mid summer races. The colt's problem did not end here. It was soon affected by slight lameness in a hind leg. Even after a Derby win and defeating Assert twice O'Brien's charge was criticised on the ground that in its four outings it has always been up against weak opposition. Nonetheless, Golden Fleece retires with the highest value ever placed on a stud for a European based stallion.

## SPORTS COLLECTING

*A sign of the gifted*

American psychologists have concluded (one is not sure how valid their conclusions are) that collecting is a sign of the gifted. So there is no need for people in the U.S. to apologise anymore for filling up boxes and basements with pins, programmes, photographs, books, games and the most popular—cards, all relating to baseball. Mel Purcell the tennis professional, collects batting helmets and wears them at tennis tournaments. A gentleman by the name of Bert Sugar who is the editor of *The Sports Collectors Bible* has among other things the original cornerstone from the Yankee Stadium in the driveway of his home and Babe Ruth's contracts from 1918 to 1932. Like philatelists sports collectors go to unusual lengths in pursuit of their objective. One collector who had heard about a 'little old lady' who discovered baseball cards in her attic called on her and it was soon discovered that the cards were golden oldies. He paid \$7,000. Money well spent, we suppose?



# How Jimmy and I won Wimbledon together

These extracts are from the book "Chrissie", by NEIL AMDUR, published by Methuen. Chris Lloyd tells how she and Connors—engaged to her at the time—pulled off their incredible double together

**D**URING a rain delay on the third day of the 1980 Wimbledon championships, two very nice English mums and an American woman were passing the time under their 'hollies' on the top row of Court three at the All-England Club. Then rainy-day subjects, I later learned, were Jimmy Connors and Chris Lvert.

The three women had decided, after much discussion, that Jimmy was a modern day Peter Pan—full of life, excitement, loving all the children and chasing the Captain Hooks of tennis by making every match a new adventure. I was the perfect Wendy, they reasoned, rescued by Peter from the humdrum world of childhood, taught fun in tennis. Never Never Land and totally devoted to Peter.

Anyone who sat through the 1974 Wimbledon tournament must have thought they were witnessing a fairy tale—as if destiny had swept Jimmy and me into Never Never Land.

I believe in destiny. While practising and winning tournaments as a junior, I felt that I was head and shoulders above most of the girls my age because I practised harder than they did. Something wonderful would happen if I improved, I told myself, and my temperament and determination would help me succeed. My career also seemed blessed by occasions that defied logic. I caught Margaret Court with a virus and surprised her in Charlotte shortly after she completed her Grand Slam in 1970. Then came the endless summer of '71 that wound up at Forest Hills. Bumping into Jimmy at Wimbledon in 1972 eased some of the uncertainties of travelling abroad and started us on a romantic road. But nothing rivalled Wimbledon '74 because it happened so unexpectedly. When events finally came together, who's to say it wasn't fate?

I never thought I had a chance to

win Wimbledon that year. I had not beaten Billie Jean or Evonne on grass courts. I had been engaged to Jimmy for seven months, but didn't know how it would affect us at a major championship like Wimbledon.

Learning to cope with peers and the adult world required adjustments for all players. Despite being ambitious and career-oriented, Billie Jean was married at twenty-one. 'I can't believe that I got married then,' she would say, when I brought up my November wedding date with Jimmy.

'But it was the pressure society put on me at the time. You know, a woman should get married.'

At fifteen, after I beat Margaret Court, some members of the media were already asking how long I planned to play. I would say, 'No longer than age twenty-one. Then for sure, I want to get married and have kids.' But with Virginia Slims offering \$935,000 in prize money for its eighteen tournaments in 1974, young players weren't in a hurry to settle down.

I came into the 1974 Wimbledon championships with a string of thirty straight singles victories that had spanned six tournaments. Two of those were the French and Italian Opens, which I had lost in 1973. This time, I beat Martina, 6-3, 6-3, in the final at Rome and Olga, 6-1, 6-2, in Paris for my first French title.

Wimbledon has a way of bringing everything into focus, and I could just as easily have lost in the opening round. Lesley Hunt was my opponent and we waited through the usual rain delays and then battled in 9 all in the third set before darkness forced a postponement. It was almost like a page from one of those adventure novels where the outcome is in doubt and 'to be continued' comes up. The next morning, Jimmy and I had a crisp practice session, and it paid off

because I broke Lesley's serve when the match resumed, held my own and won in six minutes, 8-6, 5-7, 11-9, after fretting all night.

Jimmy also had his early problems. He went four sets with Ove Bengtson of Sweden in the first round and then outlasted Phil Dent of Australia, 10-8, in the fifth. If Wimbledon had used tiebreakers then, who knows whether Jimmy would have survived?

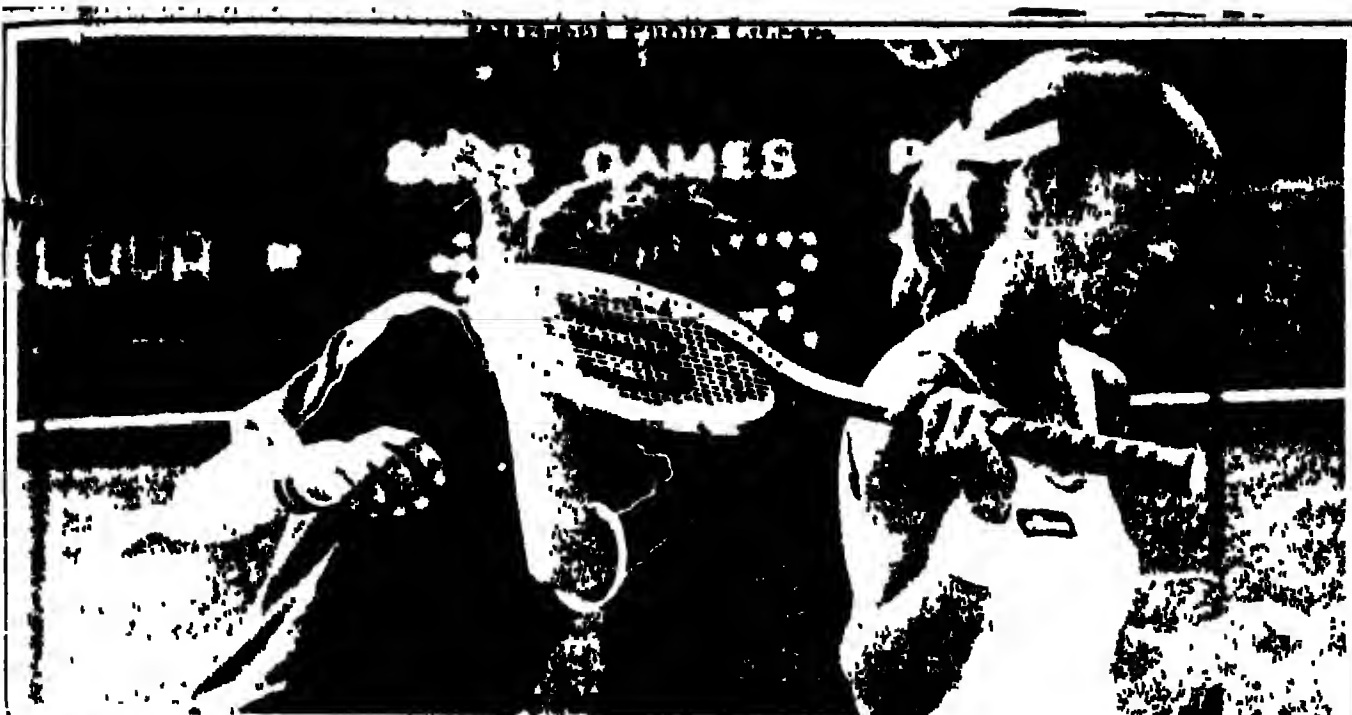
It was a strange Wimbledon. The daily BBC telecasts of the tournament were periodically blacked out because of labour strikes and it rained so long and so often that play on six of the ten days began at noon instead of two o'clock. The Narase received service one day holding an umbrella and was chastised by the umpire, but everyone thought he made his point.

The wet weather didn't dampen my spirits. Jimmy and I were together, I was playing well, we tried to watch each other's tie tournament on the same day. Was somebody on my side up there in those dark clouds? How else could Kerry Melville have beaten Evonne on grass and Olga snap Billie Jean's fifteen match Wimbledon streak? It was like the silver plate was being offered to me on a silver platter, if I wanted to fight for it.

Jimmy and I had thought about the possibility of winning Wimbledon together, but we weren't obsessed with it, and the odds-makers had us at 33-to-1 as a 'live double'. Bill Riordan who split about \$20,000 with Pancho Segura from betting on Jimmy in singles, never got around to betting us, but neither did

'Wouldn't it be great if we could both win it?' I said to Jimmy over dinner one night in The Rib Room of the Carlton Towers. Jimmy had taken me there on our first date two years before, and we decided to celebrate anniversaries at the same





Jimmy Lloyd swats at an errant bee

spot whenever possible.

I beat Kerry in the semi final and then had a pretty good suspicion that I could win the title after Olga ended Virginia Wade's hope of reaching her first Wimbledon final. I had never lost to Olga, we had taken the Italian and French Open doubles together, and I knew her game well. I won, 6-0, 6-4.

My dad still ranks Wimbledon '74 as the highlight of my career. When I phoned him in Florida after the match, he was sobbing, so choked up emotionally he could barely talk. To my dad, Wimbledon was the pinnacle of the sport. He had never expected his children to achieve this distinction, and his tears that day told me how much it meant to him.

Jimmy beat Ken Rosewall in the men's final, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4, and went on to his best year as a pro. 'Nobody will ever have a year like I had in 1974,' he has said on numerous occasions. Some people have suggested that Jimmy's success was due to our engagement, but he was far ahead of everyone that year.

Jimmy and I coordinated our schedules as much as we could to be together. Before Wimbledon, we saw each other on the average of about ten days a month. I was committed to the Virginia Slims circuit and Jimmy was on the men's tour. We would play two weeks and then have a rest week, if I wasn't playing, I tried to go with Jimmy to his tournaments, and he used his rest weeks to meet me.

I had always been attracted to outgoing types because it took that kind of man to bring out the fun in me. Jimmy brought me out of my shell and never allowed our relationship to affect his attitude. Some people saw Jimmy as outspoken,

controversial and at times even vulgar with his blunt language or flamboyant gestures on the court. When we were alone, he was a quiet, gentle man, someone who treated women almost as if they were fragile—opening car doors, sending flowers, writing letters. Most men are not like that, and his sensitivity may have come from the close relationship with his mother, yet few outsiders saw that tenderness, on the court, Jimmy was feisty to the end. To reveal such sensitivity may, in his mind, have been construed as a weakness.

It wasn't until after the women's final that I learned about the Wimbledon ball. Mary Hardwick Here, a former British player of the 1930s, told my mother about the proceedings and the first dance of the two singles champions.

'If I'm too tired, do I have to go?' I asked. My mother listened to Mary explain the tradition and ceremony attached to the affair and its importance. After Jimmy beat Rosewall, I rushed back to King's Road, bought a dress that I liked and then hurriedly found some modish stilet shoes. High heels were 'in' at the time, so I picked out these shoes with skinny, six-inch heels. There's no way I would ever wear them now because they're too dangerous, but at the time, I thought they would make me look taller.

Two hours before the ball, I was informed I had to make a speech. That's when panic set in. I've always considered myself a good debater, but I'm not comfortable making speeches at formal affairs. It's much easier for me to sit in a Press room after a match and mull over a question than deliver a talk in front of several hundred people. Most of the

time, the speeches at the Wimbledon ball are little more than thanking the committee, your parents and friends. Janet Haas even wrote a few of my speeches at some tournaments. But committee members are sensitive about all aspects of a player's involvement—from conduct on the court to appearing at an awards ceremony or banquet. Jimmy learned this at Wimbledon in 1977 when the Centre Court crowd booed him after he skipped the opening day Parade of Champions for the centennial celebration. John McEnroe also got a dose of committee feelings when they rejected his membership into the All-England Club after he skipped the 1981 champions' dinner. John's absence didn't make my job, as an American champion, any easier at the dinner.

Fortunately, Jimmy kept me loose at my first Wimbledon ball. We slipped notes to each other behind the back of Sir Brian Burnett, the chairman of the All-England Club, who was seated between us.

'Look at that blonde lady over there,' Jimmy wrote. 'Watch her twitch when she blinks.'

Before I got up to give my speech, I passed Jimmy a note that read, 'I'm sweating so badly.' He went into one of his impish smiles, got down with his left hand on the table and then scribbled back, 'Keep cool.'

I survived the speech. The band leader then asked what song we preferred for the first dance. 'Play whatever you want,' we told him.

The band played 'The Girl That I Marry', everyone clapped, and Jimmy's boyish grin returned. If it had been a traditional fairy tale, Jimmy and I would have waltzed into the sunset and lived happily ever after. But this is a true story.

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INDIAN HOCKEY

# Yes-men are ruining the game

Skeletons seem to have a way of falling out of the IHF cupboard. After Mr Jhaman Lal Sharma's detailed account of the treatment meted out to his team, the controversies arose once more. But the frightening thing is that this is nothing new; it has been going on for years and will continue to do so unless radical changes in the system are implemented.

**A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT reports**

**A**FTER Mr Jhaman Lal Sharma's statement revealing the shabby treatment that India's World Cup team received at Bombay Indian Hockey again stands scandalised. The prompt rejoinder of the Indian Hockey Federation secretary, Mr K. I. Passi, repudiating the dismissed team manager's charges, makes little difference.

What is wrong with Indian hockey? Skeletons have a way of coming out of its cupboard only in times of defeat. Starting from our attitude to the game there is a lot that is wrong down the line. A new generation has grown up for whom the glories won over a quarter century ago are mere fireside tales. The hockey world has undergone an unrecognisable change since then. It would do us a lot of good if we shed the attitude

that leads us to believe that we have a special right to the world's major hockey prizes.

The administration is blamed, the selectors are criticised, financial irregularities are exposed. But let there be one international success and everything is forgotten as though nothing was ever wrong.

There is a crisis of character. What prevented Mr Sharma from speaking the truth earlier? Would he have criticised the people he has now attacked had his team won the World Cup at Bombay? Or would he have cared to say all that he has now said had he continued as manager? However, stories like teams being forced to put up in dormitories under staircases with water seeping from the ceiling are nothing new in Indian hockey. Even as the five-star culture

is spreading the Indian hockey player remains condemned to the age of 'dhabas'.

The trouble is we don't learn. The player continues to be treated the same way even now when the IHF is flushed with funds collected from the Indo-Pak Test series. Surely, a better place could have been found for the Asian Games probabilities to stay in than the change rooms at the New Delhi National Stadium where they have been training. It is hardly an inspiring sight to see them having to find bathrooms with water in the taps. Nothing prevents the federation from spending a few thousand or even a lakh of rupees of its own money to supplement the daily allowance the Education Ministry sanctions to players in training camps. All that money in the bank has been



Players receive blessings at the Hanuman Mandir in New Delhi before the Indian team's departure for Europe; the trouble was about to begin.

## Mahajan's opponents

**T**he presidency of the Indian Hockey Federation is a thorn in the eye. Yet such is its lure that covetous eyes are already being cast on it even before it has taken vacant. Mr Mahajan, the president, whose tenure was in danger of coming to an abrupt and following disclosure of alleged financial irregularities, has gained a fresh lease of life

For long now the Indian Hockey Federation has been divided on North-South lines. When Mr Mahajan ran into trouble the North seemed to have sensed that Mr M & M Ramaswamy had again become interested in the presidency he had once given up. According to one Union member of the IBI executive from the North the wealthy Mr Ramaswamy has shown clear signs of his willingness to stage a comeback.

But the North, which does not think much of the hockey in the South, this time are determined to see that they are not deprived of Indian hockey's top post by the moneybags of Ramaswamy.

The North also will put up someone with money and power should the need arise according to the member, who would not like to be identified. Mr. Aminder Singh, M.P., son of the late

Maharaja of Patiala is being mentioned in some circles as a possible candidate. The name of Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia of Gwalior also an M P, has also been heard in this context.

The Nuth sensed danger when they came to know of Mr Ramaswamy's keenness to get himself reelected as FIB vice president. One still remembers the humiliations heaped on him in power in 1975, with the IOA delaying the takeover by Ramaswamy after the exit of Mr. Ashwini Kumar. The World Cup that year at Kuala Lumpur was won in spite of the unprecedented convulsions that the federation experienced. Later, both the IOA and Mr Ramaswamy claimed credit for the triumph. Mr Ramaswamy actually joined the Indian team in the lap of honour after the final.

The Mahajan file had reportedly lain pending on the Home Minister's table for a long time till Mr. Venkaraman took over after Giani Zail Singh's election as President. The new Home Minister took little time to decide that top police officers like Mr. Mahajan, who is an Inspector General in the Central Industrial Security Force, should be busy with more important matters than huckey. In any case, it was an embarrassment for an IG to be dragged into such matters as alleged financial irregularities of a huckey federation. Government service rules

were invoked to ask Mr. Mahajan to resign from the IIT.

But Mr. Mahajan, who is due to retire from the police in less than a month, seems to have been playing for time till some one with the right connections and "pull" poked up for him in the right place. It is reported this was done for him by the IFA. The order asking Mr. Mahajan to resign as IFA president was withdrawn temporarily and permission restored to enable him to attend the FIM meeting at Kuala Lumpur. The IOA repeatedly argued that nothing should be done to disturb the state of affairs till the Asian Games are over. Who knows what will happen then? Mr. Mahajan would have retired from his government job before then. He may even win the gold medal and then in the euphoria everything may be forgotten and forgiven. Who knows.

Nothing succeeds like success as the saying goes. If only India had won the World Cup at Bombay, no one would have taken notice of Mr. Mahajan's alleged habits of omission and commission. But he himself even have been praised for so cleverly looking after the interests of Indian hockey. To hell with rules and vouchers and all those damned pieces of paper the accountants are so fond of.

## A CORRESPONDENT

Spring 1981

The presence of a selector who has a son as a contender for a berth in the team is not the right thing to happen. Charanjit Kumar, son of selector Raj Kumar, in fact was named as a World Cup probable last May even though he had not participated in the inter zonal tournament, performances in which were supposed to have been the basis of selection. He had been included on the word of the chairman Mahajan that he was satisfied with the lad's turn during an earlier Pudge tournament at Madras. Selectors have not only got to be actually fair, they must also appear to be so. Charanjit Kumar's selection in the World Cup team was resented by the other probables at the Patiala trials, though for obvious reasons nobody openly raised his voice. Jhaman Lal Sharma has now spoken out—at last.

If selectors have to be reduced to the status of yes-men, then it would be better if the whole system underwent a change. These are days of professional management in sport where national teams are looked after by managers. Leave the task of team formation to the manager who should be made accountable for his

ruined by the sweat of the players. If nothing for the federation could at least hire a couple of ball pickers so that surface games are not held on the ice. When will we learn to be more adequate to our players without a real purpose of hissing over them like we do to murderers? Later? Do we have to wait for another defeat, for some sacked manager to expose such things all over again? But then this is merely one aspect.

[illegible]

the ways of our selections

Unfortunately, Mr Mahajan also was kept company by weak yes men in his selection committee. Or else he would not have been able to have his way when he dropped Baskaran from the inter-zonal tournament last summer before the selection of 44 World Cup probables. The south zone selectors dropped the 1980 Mysore Olympics captain at the hint of a "hukam from the top" as one of them said. It is a sad commentary on our hockey that even the south zone team selectors unthinkingly bowed to the autocratic wishes of the persons who had sent the "hukam". Nothing in writing. Still it was a "hukam" to be carried out.

This happened at a time when the selectors were not sure of finding an adequate left-half. Baskaran was instinctively dropped because he was "slow". But the real reason was different. He had acquired a personality which had enabled him to raise his value for a more decent deal by Indian hockey players. He is reported to have been described as "undisciplined", a "danda" - simply because he had demanded a better one than the Indian players to travel to and from the Super 6 and was here in

# Musical chairs

SUBHASH SARCAR

**T**HERE was was praise galore for Mr Inder Mohan Mahajan when he donned the mantle of the president of the Indian Hockey Federation and vowed that he would set the troubled, house in order. Not long after he had said this, Vasudevan Baskaran, who had captained the gold-medal winning team at the Moscow Olympics

Predictably enough, this led to an uproar in the hockey fraternity, for the new president was following his predecessors in the true sense of the word. It was not the first time in the history of Indian hockey that a captain had been axed after a major tournament

It certainly seemed as if there was no long-term planning being done. Mahajan dropped Baskaran during the inter-zonal camps and explained that he had found a better replacement in Sujit Kumari of Uttar Pradesh. But Mahajan's line of reasoning proved to be faulty because his candidate did not even find a place in the national side, as Gurmail Singh manned the left-half position on the European tour.

The latter thus displaced both Sujit Kumar and Onkar Singh and performed well enough to hold his place for the 'Test' series against Pakistan. Then, during the fifth World Cup, something inexplicable happened. Onkar Singh suddenly found a place in the first eleven, displacing Gurmail while Sujit Kumar was dropped altogether from the final 16. It is common knowledge that this is one of the major reasons why fared India fared miserably in Bombay.

To begin with, the federation dropped Surinder Singh Sodhi after the Bombay World Cup in favour of Parminder, who later emerged as the top-scorer for India in the Asia Cup at Karachi which followed. Parminder's inclusion in the national squad was the result of his excellent performance in the Hockey Nationals in Calcutta. But that was not the end of the story. Parminder was sidelined and the IHF, ludicrously enough reinstated Sodhi as the captain.

Several questions were raised after this took place. Was Sodhi's reinstatement master-



Romeo James—conceded the most goals

mined by the strong Punjab lobby in the federation? Or was he given the job simply to block the chances of aspirants from other States? Another very relevant question pertains to Surjit Singh, another former India captain. Was he also given the choice of quitting in preference to being axed?

The Indian team went to Amsterdam for the Champions Trophy, but stopped off in Dubai where they played two matches. Performances in Dubai were none too impressive. One line of reasoning is that no alternative was thought of when national coach Harmik Singh was given the sack. Three weeks passed before the federation appointed Balbir Singh, Punjab's Sports Director, as the chief coach. In the interim, no one bothered to check on the probabilities and for the moment, their training was neglected. More important is the fact that the Sports Director had practically no time to assess the abilities of the various players. In this light, then, was our performance at Amsterdam really such a surprise?

Then again, on the same tour, Marcelus Gomes of Bombay was not given any real chances to prove himself and was omitted immediately after their return. However, he has one consolation as he is on the list of the Asian probabilities.

Whatever be the case, all the

team members remained in a state of fear. Any awkward questions on their part would have culminated in the humiliation of being dropped. In this kind of atmosphere, no one spoke out on the subject of daily allowances for the players during the World Cup. The allowances were not given, yet Mr Mahajan ran up an enormous hotel bill. Players did not have the courage to demand their allowance, for fear of being chopped.

The players have had to put up with a lot since the Jullundur Nationals. How could one demand the best from the players while submitting them to continuous rigours with not even a month's rest between various training camps and tours. All this has also taken its toll—mentally and physically—on the players.

India did manage to sparkle when they beat Pakistan in the recent Champions Trophy but there is no reason for complacency even though India finished third after conceding the maximum number of goals (20) at Amsterdam. In Bombay, Holland beat India 4-3 while Australia edged out India, 2-1 but in the Champions Trophy the respective margins were 5-2 and 7-2.

Another glaring omission dealt with the fielding of the goalkeeper at Amsterdam. Negi and Mandapakka were chosen to do duty in goal with ASC's Romeo James as standby. When Negi opted out after sustaining an injury at Dubai, the number one spot should have gone to his lieutenant, Mandapakka, instead of which Romeo James was elevated to the limelight. The reasons, it appears, is not too hard to find. Is it merely a coincidence that coach Balbir Singh (Jr) and James are both ASC personnel? What loyalty this, at the cost of the country's reputation?

After the Champions Trophy, sixteen more trainees were included in the Patiala camp which was supposed to be a conditioning camp. Surprisingly, not one of the selectors was present for 15 days and altogether ten players were given a raw deal. Mandapakka was one of them. He was unceremoniously dropped after he was hospitalised following a car accident. Realising that he would not be able to attend the camp, he cabled the person concerned about his inability to report at the camp. But someone, somewhere, feels that even the most genuine of reasons is not good enough.



actions to the federation. He should be a full time man who should not only look after the coaching of the team but also scout for talent and have the authority of summoning any player to his camp.

No harm will be done if selectors are rendered redundant. In fact, it may prove to be good riddance. In any case, even now the number of players at camps are pruned down or added to without the selectors meeting to take decisions. When they do get together it is more a formality than anything else. At most, they watch trial games for a day or two. Some of them do not care to do even that. The man who is really competent to select or sack is the manager or manager-coach who has been closely watching the players for weeks and months.

The manager should also have the power to summon help from other coaches or specialists. In fact, this is exactly how the Punjab Government prepared the World Cup winning team at Chandigarh in 1975 when the Indian Olympic Association had to step in to sponsor India's entry after the IHL had been temporarily derecognised by the world body. Balbir Singh managed that team with G S Bodhi as coach. Balbir was free to set up a "brains trust", which he did with great profit as the results at Kuala Lumpur showed. He invited coaches to seek their opinion and

help, but the final decision was always his or Bodhi's. One doubts if a strong manager of power and responsibility would have allowed Baskaran to be left out last year.

Balbir Singh is again at work with the team. But being a busy Director of Sports in the Punjab Government at Chandigarh, will he be able to devote all his time to the players training on the brand new synthetic turf at New Delhi?

The very first decision taken by the IHF under Mr Mahajan was the most unfortunate one. It was not to continue with Balkrishan Singh as coach of the team. After long years of coaching and success at Moscow, Balkrishan had acquired the stature for the job of manager-coach. But he was overlooked in favour of the untitled Harmik Singh. A professional coach, he had acquired a respectable seniority and a deep knowledge of the styles of the leading teams of the world, especially Australia where he had been on coaching assignments.

Mahajan's new set-up took a dim view of our Moscow team and decided to make a complete break with the past. Continuity has been the first casualty with every change of regime. Mahajan's IHF even withdrew the team from the 1981 Champions Trophy tournament at Karachi. Indian hockey has paid dearly for these hasty decisions dictated by

prejudice rather than prudence. When the IHF realised the folly of those decisions it was too late. They made a bid for Balkrishan's services after the Astra Cup at Karachi last March. But the All-India Women's Hockey Association would not agree to relieve him from his duties as coach of the national women's hockey team.

The IHF has a coaching committee under Gian Singh. But Gian Singh is a bitter man. The committee exists only on paper, or "Naam ke wastey". Not once has it met to chart out a plan or strategy. The coaching committee could have been the brains trust mentioned earlier. But Gian Singh has been completely ignored.

Crises of character and leadership are not the only reasons for Indian hockey's lack of success. It is equally true that players of class are no longer being produced, players like the giants of the past. Maybe this is a passing phase. One can only hope that it draws to a swift end and a new generation of truly classy players starts emerging. Before that happens, the administration of the game will have to reform itself so that the player, for whose benefit it exists, gets a better deal. Right now it is so bad that players with years of hockey still before them feel it humiliating to be associated with national teams. Let there be no more crewals.

## BHA on the streets

OVER the years the Bengal Hockey Association (BHA) has had a chequered career—glory on one hand, controversy on the other, and one wonders when it will finally follow a straight course. While other State associations have forged ahead, the BHA has been bogged down and has failed to get out of the swamp of criticism. Matters reached a climax when the once illustrious association found itself without a home. The Office Sports Federation which had lodged the BHA free of cost for over a decade, finally decided that enough was enough and threw the BHA out. Put in a quandary, officials are now running from pillar to post looking for new premises. They have approached both the State Government and the Sports Department for help. Till the time of going to press the BHA has not been successful in acquiring a room to house its office. There are reasons enough to believe that the BHA is to blame for the predicament in which it now finds itself.

First of all, the dank and dark dilapidated building was unfit to house the hockey association. The appearance itself left a bad taste in the mouth and one feels that the malfunctioning of the BHA matched its office atmosphere. Naturally, most visitors avoided the place. There was no earnest effort by the predecessors of the present officials to look for another place and the present secretary had once said that he was frantically searching for an office close to the maidan. Probably, the secretary had sensed the problem a couple of years ago. But the axe fell, and the BHA was on the streets.

People are still talking of getting Bengal hockey out of the quagmire. How can a solution be found when the association is plagued by a number of drawbacks. It is plagued by legal suits filed by one of its affiliates and, at the moment, the BHA officials, it is learnt, are facing contempt of court proceedings. Then again, elections are long overdue and cannot be held because of a court case.

But the present body has been endeavouring enough to salvage some of the lost prestige. Mr Inder Mohan Mahajan, the IHF

chief, despite the bad reputation he has at the moment was instrumental in allotting the first sub-junior hockey Nationals—and the Indo-Pakistan hockey 'Test' to the BHA. As a result, the association, for the first time, could put some money into its empty coffers. It was a long time since Calcutta Staged the Hockey Nationals and with some money in the bank the BHA bid to stage the Nationals and got it. If they can now get hold of a room for their office, things can improve.

The association has frequently been criticised for Bengal's appalling performances in the national competitions. The ever-ready excuse always is that the BHA has a short season and has no ground of its own. But certainly we can expect a better brand of hockey in the future since the BHA has at last been able to acquire a ground next to the East Bengal Club through the State Government. Presently, the Machine Manufacturing Corporation (MMC) has volunteered to level the uneven ground so that some coaching schemes can also be implemented.

SUBHASH SARGAR



## Profile

# Laurie not 'pottering' around

MURRAY HEDGCOCK meets England's man of the future

**L**AURIE POTTER, one of the bright new hopes of Kent cricket, hasn't spent a winter in England since he was three—and, at 19, he's not too sure how he will get on in 1982/83.

'The start of the season in April is pretty tough, when you need four sweaters and tracksuit trousers under your creams,' he mused. 'But I suppose I'll manage—unless anyone makes me an offer to go back to Australia for the winter. Nobody has done yet.'

Born at Besleyheath the three-year-old Potter was taken to Australia by his electrician father Ron and mother Megan and after moving from Adelaide to Perth to Queensland to Exmouth in northern Western Australia, they finally settled back to the WA capital. Laurie finished his schooling at Kelmscott Senior High School but, as he admits with a grin, he was so wrapped up in cricket that he did not distinguish himself in class. As he filled out into a solidly built, athletic teenager, his energies were concentrated on the example of the great Australian batsman Norman O'Neill, running cricket clinics in Perth.

'I've never consciously modelled myself on any particular player, but Norm is the man I leached most from,' says Potter today.

He began his club cricket with West Perth primarily as a medium

pace left-arm bowler, but his sound batting technique pushed him up the ladder to the opening spot. Run Potter never forgot his Kentish background, and his hope always was that his son would one day play for the County. Three years ago he wrote to the county club to ask if they would look at the boy qualified by birth for Kent, despite his Australian upbringing.

'You don't turn anyone away. You have a look at anybody who is recommended,' says current Kent manager Brian Luckhurst, who was handling the Seconds in 1979.

The Potter came back to England for the first time to visit family and friends, and after 16-year-old Laurie had played a couple of club and ground matches, the sharp-eyed Luckhurst had seen enough. 'He looked very good, so we asked him to come to Kent on a match basis. He had an aunt at Teynham, three miles from my home at Sittingbourne, so he stayed there and I would pick him up and drive him to matches and keep an eye on him.'

A year on a match basis was succeeded by a year's contract, and then a two-year contract. 'We rate him very highly,' is Luckhurst's simple summary.

Potter made his first-class debut last season, but really came to notice when he hit a splendid double of 96 and 118 against the touring Indians.

'It was a good track, and a fast

outfield—OK for batting,' is as much as you will get out of the modest Potter about those two knocks which had the critics nothing his name as a genuine hope for tomorrow.

There was just one doubt to be resolved: was Laurie Potter English, or Australian? After all, he had captained the 1981 Under 19 Australian team to Pakistan, the same year he played for Young England against Young India.

Laurie Potter has no problems in answering 'I'm English. I've chosen to play cricket here, and that's it,' he says firmly.

When he came to Lord's for the Kent-Middlesex match at the end of July, it was the first time he had even seen a match there: his only previous visit had been a brief evening meeting with a friend on the ground staff. He marked his debut with a century after giving one chance in an innings that was he-calmed at times, but overall demonstrated sound technique, with an array of attacking strokes that brought 108 in 41, hours.

West Indies and Middlesex pace bowler Wayne Daniel summed up: 'He's pretty good for 19. He played the quicks well, got into position, and wasn't bothered by the short stuff.'

There is talk at Peter May reflected in the Potter style, but hard-headed Luckhurst is quick to pin that argument into perspective. 'You couldn't really say he looks like May, but he certainly enjoys hitting the ball and playing with the same sort of aggression that Peter showed,' he suggests. 'His strength is that he plays shots on either side of the wicket, off front and back foot. He's amazingly mature for someone so young—and he's a very nice lad with it.'

Laurie Potter still has to win a regular place in the Kent team which is going through change that will be stepped up in the next season or so as more of the older players stand down. He is content to take it steadily, and shies away from suggestions that he must be a Test hopeful in the reasonable future.

Brian Luckhurst is much more forthright. 'If England had a settled pair of openers, then they could take Laurie to learn the trade on tour. As it is, when they're still looking for a second Test opener, then it might not be quite the time for him to go to Australia. Mind you, he still could be picked—and he wouldn't let the side down. After all, he's seen Australia, he knows it, he'd feel at home there.'

In other words, Laurie Potter might still be spared the English winter if that same Peter May and his colleagues decide to gamble on a young man who must surely play for England one day—however much his old mates in Perth might barrack him for wearing the wrong colours.



Laurie Potter—international cricketer

Courtesy Wisden Cricket Monthly

# SUSPENSE EVERY INCH OF THE WAY

It was another 'what next?' match, which England managed to win by three wickets and with that the series. Imran Khan with his customary utility showed what captaincy can do to a man, Botham proving that he was not way behind in the game, Gower staying around for a respectable amount, Fowler promising for the future and Mudassar showing his true colours as a shock bowler.

PAUL FITZPATRICK reports

**T**HERE was no surplus of genius on the first day of the third and final Cornhill Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley. The cricket was hard and mean. A Test cricket is meant to be the lavish stroke was rare and at the close, with Pakistan 255 for eight, both sides could look back on their efforts with a degree of satisfaction.

The wicket was of no great pace but throughout encouraged movement off the seam. The threatened

rain, save for a few drops failed to arrive but there were clouds and the ball moved in the air, if nothing like as alarmingly as it can do here. A total of 250 it seemed, was considered commendable and more than useful and Pakistan are now in excess of such a score. That was reward for a lot of determined batting. But the English bowlers and Jackman above all, were reluctant to give anything away.

This would have been a good

opportunity for Pingle to have shown just how good a bowler he really is but he was the victim of a freakish mishap on the preceding Wednesday night when after writing a letter he sat up straight, stretched, and injured his back. That brought in Marks for his first Test but he bowled only five overs and did not impress. It was a seam bowler's wicket.

On the eve of the match Bob Willis, England's captain, had said that

*Fowler is bowled in the first innings for only nine runs while Tavare watches from the other end*



someone other than himself and Botham would be doing the donkey-work. The donkey proved to be Jackman and if, after this performance, he does not win a place on this winter's tour of Australia there is no justice left. Jackman was brought on to bowl at the Kirkstall Lane End just after noon and was not given a rest until 5.40 p.m. when the shadows were beginning to lengthen.

During that time he took three wickets and could have had more. He attacked the batsmen on and around off stump and maintained, hour after hour and for 35 consecutive overs, an unwavering, searching length and line. He beat the bat frequently but had little luck.

It was a devoted piece of bowling, a tribute to his stamina and intelligence, an effort that showed him to be in complete control of all the mechanics of his trade. Jackman went to the West Indies last year as a replacement for Willis and let no body down. He has surely earned his passage to Australia even at 37.

The only blot on his labours was his gesture when he dismissed Wasim Bari, who earlier had given a catch off his bowling to Gower at first slip but had survived. When Wasim Bari heaved wildly at a straight ball and had his stumps ruined, Jackman flung out his left arm to point out the vicinity of the pavilion. Jackman is full of gestures, the majority of them stemming from an unquenchable enthusiasm and a sense of humour; this one was gratuitous and incurred an immediate reprimand from his captain.

The question that surfaced was how well the Pakistani bowlers would perform on a wicket which, if the weather held, would begin to lose its moisture and play more easily.

It was England who took first tricks, dismissing Mohsin and Mansoor for only 19. Mohsin departed spitting blood—and possibly feathers—after being adjudged caught when he attempted to hook Botham and the ball went into Taylor's hands by way of the batsman's mouth, which required stitches.

In the next over Willis dug in a delivery at Mansoor, the ball lifted, perhaps, less than the batsman anticipated, and the cramped, anxious defensive stroke succeeded only in giving a simple catch to short leg.

Mudassar and Javed now wrested back the initiative by virtue of more than two hours of grafting batting that realised 100 runs. Javed never looked entirely comfortable throughout his long innings and he played and missed often but Mudassar, after his failures at Edgbaston and a modest batting performance at Lord's, was near his best. He played one of the finest strokes of the day, a magnificent hook off his eyebrows off Willis and he was looking well established when he was bowled from a



Ian Botham displaying his instincts by sending this one towards the boundary. He was to make 57 in 59 minutes in the second innings.

singing delivery of full length by Botham

Again, as in the morning, one dismissal was followed swiftly by another, again in the next over Jackman was now well launched into his long spell and was rewarded with the wicket of Zaheer, playing carelessly at one of the few wide deliveries that Jackman howled all day. Taylor, moving in front of first slip, took the catch comfortably.

Majid stayed long enough to secure the 16 runs needed for him to overtake Hanif Mohammed as Pakistan's highest Test run scorer, before becoming Jackman's second victim, trapped leg before on the back foot on a wicket where it was wiser to remain on the front.

The wickets fell in pairs all day and eight runs later Javed, who had never quite discovered his timing, was caught brilliantly in the covers by Fowler off Willis, trying to turn the ball through mid wicket and instead squinting it up on the off-side from a thick edge.

The ground fielding of Fowler, fast and enthusiastic and good enough to oust Randall from the cover position, was one of the day's outstanding features.

Wasim Bari survived that catch to slip, clubbed some useful runs and then departed when he played a shot of second eleven grotesqueness.

Qadir pulled Botham low to Willis at mid on and at 224 for eight Pakistan were again uncertainly placed. But now as Imran was growing in authority, Sikander stayed with him, and the ninth wicket pair, together at the close, added 31 invaluable

As long as the weather continued after the third and final Cornhill Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley seemed likely to fulfil the exciting possibilities that were predicted for it. On the second day England's batting followed similar patterns to Pakistan's the previous day and at the close, in reply to the tourists' first innings of 275, England had made 256 for nine.

The ball beat the bat fewer times than on the first day. Yet, although there was a marvellous innings from Botham, a hard working and mature one from Gower, and useful contributions from Tavaré, Gatting and Taylor, a Pakistan attack lacking Saifraz and Tahir Naqqash and on a wicket offering possibly less help than on the first day earned considerable credit for making such inroads into the English batting.

They were helped by some judicious strokes, a run out which brought the downfall of Randall and a glaring piece of misjudgment by Marks in the last over before tea. With the notable exception of Qadir, however, who was treated with less respect than he has received all summer, a modest attack worked economically and successfully. Im-

ran provided the inspiration, his pace and hostility proving the day's most potent weapons.

The last two Pakistan wickets were more profitable than England would have wished. Imran was not afraid to swing the bat and, helping to rough up Jackman's tidy figures along the way, shared a ninth-wicket stand of 50 with Sikander.

Ehtesham ud-din, however, did not last long, disconcerted by a lifting delivery from Botham which struck him in the face, though possibly suffering greater pain from seeing the ball roll on to his stumps.

Fowler made a crisp start to his Test career. He took a two and a three off Ehtesham's first over and then square-drove Imran handsomely for four. These strokes, forcibly played, must have helped his confidence but, when Fowler was chosen for this match, he could have no idea that the man who would put a swift end to his first Test innings would be the professional with Daisy Hill in the Bolton Association. When you are playing Pakistan you don't expect to be done by someone so close to home.

Ehtesham is not the most athletic looking cricketer nor the most devastating bowler and, as the day wore on, he was to discover that wickets come easier for Daisy Hill than they do for Pakistan. He is built like Joyce's Buck Mulligan.

"Plum and stately", but in his opening spell, bowling wide of the crease, he found a delivery good enough to find its way between Fowler's bat and pad and to hit the off-stump.

Tavaré pursued the role for which he now seems permanently cast. He stared hard at the ground, went on his ruminative walks and played many a straight dead bat, but he did look technically sound and even roused himself at one stage to hit Ehtesham for two fours in an over.

Gatting joined him at number three, surely not his best position, but he played well and seized on loose deliveries from Qadir to get his innings under way. Gatting, however, finds that sizeable innings for England as elusive as ever. This might have been his day but after he had made a good 25, a ball from Imran cut back off the seam and trapped him low.

That was the start of a destructive little spell from Imran which saw him collect three wickets in nine deliveries. Lamb paid the price for a dismal pull—his scores in the series read six, five, 33 zero, zero, and Tavaré was unable to keep down a waist-high delivery that gave Haroon, fielding substitute for Mansoor, a one-handed catch at short leg.

Haroon took the next catch, too, an alert athletic one in the deep, but by then England were in a healthier position. Botham was the victim but he had completed a superb half

century and shared with Gower a stand of 69 for the fifth wicket. This was the most exciting phase of a day never lacking in incident with Botham showing impeccable judgment and also a relish for attack. Qadir in particular has rarely been treated with such disrespect.

England lost two wickets just before tea. Randall, possibly encouraged by the sight of Gower moving towards him, went for a dangerous run but was sent back and Sikander completed a good piece of work by breaking the wicket with Randall far from home. Then in the last over before the interval Marks, after showing some positive ways of dealing with Qadir, completely misread a googly, left the ball alone and was bowled.

Gower had been struggling to find his best form but he became the dominant figure of the last session as his authority and confidence grew. He has played with more fluency for England but rarely has he shown greater concentration. Taylor was briskly acquisitive in an eight-wicket stand of 39 and then Gower displayed responsibility and judgment in protecting Jackman in another profitable stand for the ninth wicket.

It seemed that Gower would be reappearing this morning but just before the end his long innings ended with a tired stroke off Sikander that gave Haroon his third catch. Willis and Jackman were, thus, left with four overs to survive. They did so and the day ended with England only 19 runs ahead and a fascinating Test nicely balanced.

ENGLAND looked like winning the Cornhill Test against Pakistan at Headingley on the fourth day. But that result was not so certain that you would want to put your life's savings on it.

With all second innings wickets standing, England needed 204 runs to give them the Test and the series but there had been enough twists till then to tempt predictions with caution. The memories of last season's extraordinary events were still vivid, too.

In England's favour was the weekend state of the opposition's bowling. On the night of the third day—after biting his lip about the quality of the umpiring—Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, said that he had not completely given up hope of Ehtesham ud-din being able to bowl on the fourth morning. But on the third day it seemed not a question of when the Daisy Hill professional would bowl again but how long it would be before he would be walking properly.

No glummed looking figure can ever have appeared at the crease in a Test match. Suffering from a hamstring strain it seemed that he might never reach the wicket and when, soon afterwards, he had to return



JAVED MIANDAD  
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

that painful distance to the pavilion the mounting of the steps was only marginally less agonising than a walk across hot coals. The next act had almost started before he reached the top step.

Without Iftikhar-ul-Din Imran would have relied on himself. Sikander and Mudassar for the pace attack and with the hope that Qadir would find more inspiration than in the first innings. On a wicket giving him some turn but no bounce that might have been difficult. There was plenty of assistance for the seam bowler till then and although Headingley is a law unto itself, that seemed likely to remain so.

The biggest danger seemed sure to come from Imran. He had poured enormous energy, effort and concentration into his bowling and batting till then and England, as Pakistan made their last effort to win the game, could have expected some blistering bowling from him. Is there a more compelling sight than Imran in the delivery stride?

Imran found difficulty at his Press conference in moderating his attack on the umpiring. He managed it and with a helpless sort of gesture suggested the impractical step of appointing an international panel to keep a check on Test umpires. Pakistan undoubtedly had the roughest and of things at Edgbaston but found the luck with the marginal decisions running their way at Lord's. It was clear, however, that Imran did not believe in the theory that fortune tends to balance itself out over a series.

I would imagine that the dismissal which most upset him was Sikander's. The Press, unlike David Constant, have the benefit of television replays. Often those replays are inconclusive which strengthens the umpire's case. If the evidence of Sikander's dismissal was not, however, a total distortion, it has to be one of the most unfortunate decisions given in a long time. His bat did not appear to come within six inches of the ball. Pakistan possibly contemplated making an official protest but decided against such action later.

That was an important wicket for England. Sikander is not a great batsman but he is determined and was giving Imran devoted support in a match wicket stand that realised 30 runs. Had that stand been extended by another 50 runs or more, the game would have been given a different complexion. As it was Imran, who could not have taken any confidence from the sight of Iftikhar-ul-Din coming home, fell soon afterwards, and England were left requiring 219 runs to win.

Imran was not too enamoured with his side's batting either, which showed that he had matters in perspective. "Some of the batsmen played as if it were a one-day game," he said. "Very disappointing." If Imran

so impressive on and off the field, were to tell you that you had been "Very disappointing" you would feel it necessary to run away and hide somewhere.

The start to Pakistan's second innings, after England's last wicket had been captured with indecent haste, was calamitous rather than disappointing. In Willis's first over both openers, Mohsin in an extraordinarily cavalier shot and Mudassar to a fine catch at third slip by Botham, fell in the first balls they faced.

Miandad displayed the full range of his talents but Pakistan might have been better served by the sort of application he showed in the first innings. The wicket was primarily for grafters. The runs were there but they needed to be worked for. David Gower's 74 in retrospect, looked like proving the most important contribution to the game.

There had been much back chat and feuding in this match, and Iaved had invariably been involved. He seemed determined to show England, and Botham in particular, his glittering talent but at the expense



Imran Khan

of discretion and in the end his innings brought to mind the vain man in the Robert Graves' poem who would walk on stilts to be seen by the crowd. He departed to a remarkable catch by Taylor, driving expansively at Botham.

Botham went on to take another five wickets, good ones all, for the 26th time in his recent Test career. Imran showed what a mature cricketer he is, but as usual began to run out of partners. When the innings ended England needed to play out nine overs. This was reduced further by bad light but Fowler and Tavaré were there to lead the fight in another day.

**INTERMITTENT** spells of rain alternating between serene periods of batting extended Pakistan's chance of saving the game in more senses than one. With England left stranded at 190 for six wickets the chances of Pakistan's wicket-keepers ridding the remainder of England's resistance seemed likely in the light of only Botham's hanger on as the sole recognised batsman. Moreover, the delay on England's

part to give the final stroke increased Pakistan's chances of wooing the weather and saving the series.

The morning of the fourth day was marked by the absolute batting of debutant Fowler as he blended superbness of timing with moderate aggression. He batted with certainly enough to ease Peter May's bouts of insomnia and the only blot was perhaps the one that got him out, as he swished at a delivery from Mudassar and was taken behind. Disappointment was omnipresent as he had fallen 14 short of a century on debut but with England at 168 and still eight wickets in hand the air in the 'home' dressing room was still relieved of tension.

Earlier, Tavaré, too had attempted to court a ball well outside the off stump and had paid the penalty by giving Majid Khan in the slips another catch of the series and Pakistan their first success.

By the end of another exciting day, showing signs of going the way of the Headingley Test of the previous year, Pakistan's tally of successes was to rise to six with Mudassar proving once again that there is more to his credentials than just that of opening the batting. At 172 Mudassar produced one to come back off the pitch which had an out-of-form Lamb groping and trapped him while 15 runs later he compelled Gower to launch into a drive as Barr behind frisked around in glee.

Such was Mudassar's influence on the game that suddenly the strong Yorkshire crowd had even stronger reservations about leaving. Most of them didn't and were forced to be witnesses to another English middle order collapse as Gatting and Derek Randall pursued each other into the pavilion, both the victims of the man who had taken the rear seat for some time in the day. Mike Gatting, who had played himself in and with a determination centred around grafting than going immediately for the shots, was out at 189, a personal 25 leg before to the Pakistani captain while Randall went identically back and in as England slumped to 189 for six wickets.

At the close of play Somerset's contribution to England, Ian Botham and Vic Marks had batted out the remaining time much to Bob Willis' comfort but not before Mudassar Nazar had dropped Ian Botham, of all people, at nought and Marks had been beaten all ends up but not bowled.

That summed up a day of great exciting possibilities and not many at the end of it all on the fourth evening would risk forecasting the next day's fare. With a bowler of freakish qualities like Mudassar causing entirely unexpected problems for each English batsman, no one seemed sure of chancing his arm



# PAKISTAN CRICKET CHALLENGE, 1952-53

PAKISTAN (First innings)		(Second innings)	
MOHSIN KHAN c Taylor b Botham	10	c Taylor b	0
Mudassar Nazki b Botham		c Botham b Willis	0
MANSOOR ACHTAR c Gatting b Willis	0	c Randall b Botham	30
JAVED MIANDAD c Fowler b Willis	54	c Taylor b Botham	52
ZAHSEER ABBAS c Taylor b Jackman	8	bw Botham	4
MAJID KHAN lbw Jackman	21	c Gower b Botham	10
IMRAN KHAN not out	67	c Randall b Botham	46
WASIM BARI c Jackman	23	c Taylor b Willis	7
ABDUL QADIR c Willis b Botham	5	b Jackman	17
SHAKDAR BAKHT c Tavers b Willis	7	c Gatting b Marks	7
EHTEHAMUDDIN b Botham	0	not out	0
EXTRAS	15	EXTRAS	17
TOTAL (all out)	275	(all out)	199

Fall of wickets 1/16 (Mohsin, Mudassar 6), 2/19 (Mansoor, Mudassar 9), 3/119 (Mudassar, Miandad 40), 4/128 (Zahseer, Miandad 41), 5/160 (Majid, Miandad 80), 6/168 (Miandad, Imran 4), 7/207 (Imran 17), 8/224 (Qadir, Imran 27), 9/274 (Bakht, Imran 66)  
 Fall of wickets 1/0 (Mohsin, Mudassar 0), 2/3 (Mudassar, Mansoor 2), 3/61 (Miandad, Mansoor 24), 4/65 (Zahseer, Mansoor 24), 5/108 (Mansoor, Majid 7), 6/115 (Majid, Imran 3), 7/128 (Imran 7), 8/166 (Qadir, Imran 28), 9/199 (Shakdar, Imran 46)  
 BOWLING: Willis 28-6-73-3, Botham 24-6-70-4, Jackman 37-7-74-3, Marks 5-0-33-0, Gatting 8-3-17-0  
 BOWLING: Willis 19-2-35-3, Imran 30-8-74-8, Jackman 28-11-41-1, Marks 2-1-3-1, Gatting 2-1-4-0

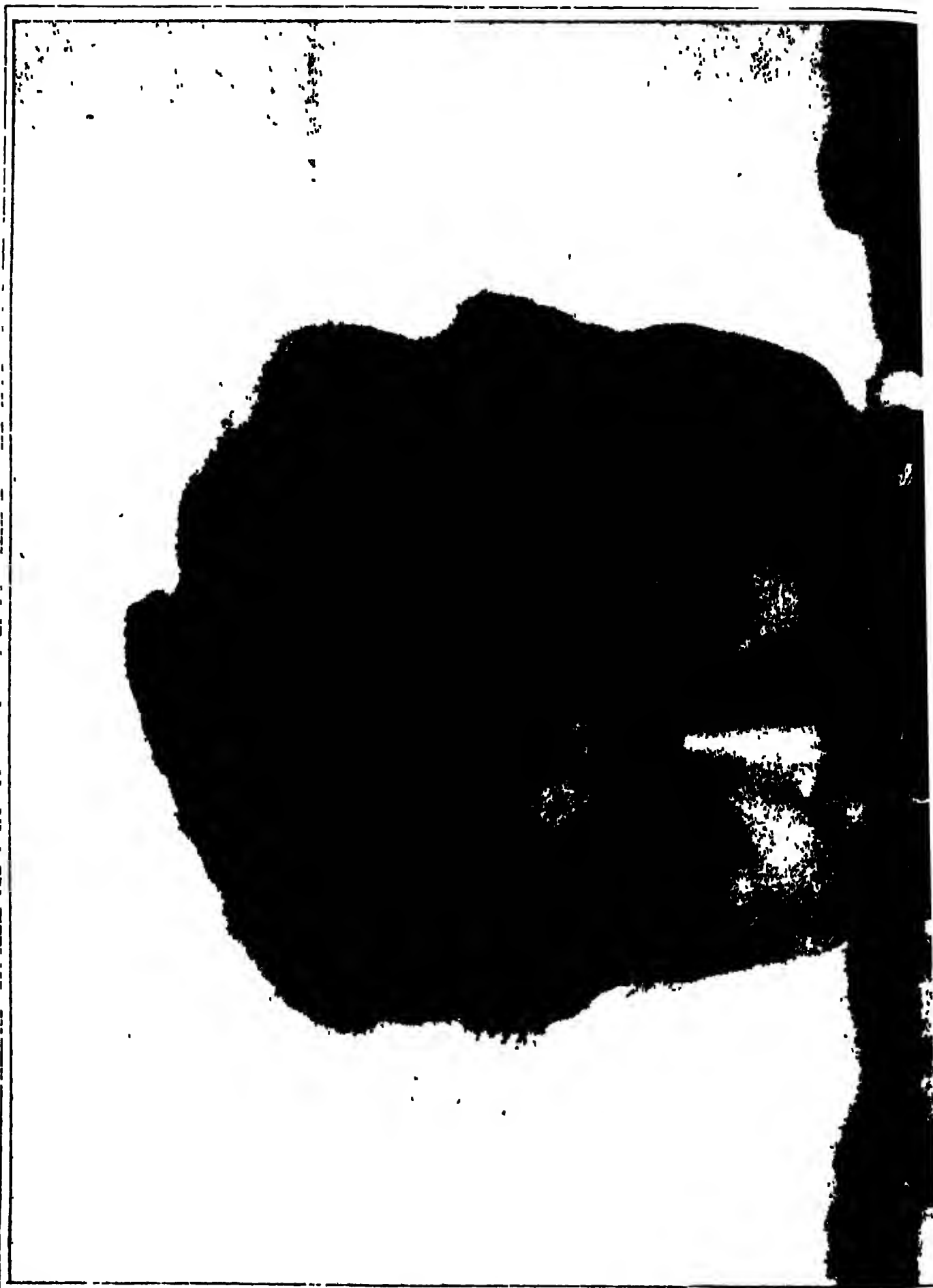
ENGLAND (First innings)		(Second innings)	
CHRIS TAVARE c sub (Haroan) b Imran	22	c Majid b Imran	33
GRAEME FOWLER b Ehtesham	9	c Bari b Mudassar	86
MIKE GATTING lbw Imran	25	lbw Imran	25
ALLAN LAMB c Mohsin b Imran	0	lbw Mudassar	4
DAVID GOWER c sub (Haroan) b Bakht	74	c Bari b Mudassar	7
IAN BOTHAM c sub (Haroan) b Bakht	57	c Majid b Mudassar	4
DEREK RANDALL run out (Bakht)	8	lbw Imran	0
VIC MARKS b Qadir	7	not out	12
BOB TAYLOR c Miandad b Imran	18	not out	
ROBIN JACKMAN c Mohsin b Imran	11		
BOB WILLIS not out			
EXTRAS	24		42
TOTAL (all out)	236	(for seven wds)	222

Fall of wickets 1/15 (Fowler, Tavers 3), 2/67 (Gatting, Tavers 21), 3/89 (Lamb, Tavers 22), 4/77 (Tavers, Gower 7), 5/146 (Botham, Gower 19), 6/158 (Randall, Gower 24), 7/170 (Marks, Gower 28), 8/309 (Taylor, Gower 46), 9/255 (Gower, Jackman 11)  
 Fall of wickets 1/1/103 (Tavers, Fowler 51), 2/168 (Fowler, Gatting 14), 3/172 (Lamb, Gatting 18), 4/157 (Gower, Gatting 28), 5/166 (Gatting, Botham 0), 6/189 (Randall, Botham 6), 7/198 (Botham, Marks 2)  
 BOWLING: Imran 25-2-48-4, Ehtesham 14-4-46-1, Bakht 24-5-47-2, Qadir 25-4-57-1, Mudassar 4-1-5-0  
 BOWLING: Imran 30-2-39-3, Bakht 20-4-40-0, Qadir 8-3-16-0, Marks 28-7-55-4

England won by three wickets.

Man of the Match: Imran Khan  
 Man of the Series: Imran Khan







NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

# I will resign

In an exclusive interview with DEREK O'BRIEN, P. K. Banerjee says he will take the ultimate step if India do not fare well at the Asian Games

**SW** Would it have been better to stay back in India and prepare for the Asiad rather than go for the Merdeka tournament?

**PK** Our initial plan was that the Indian team, after playing in the Korea Cup, should undertake the European tour. Competition is always good but one should keep in mind that there should always be a phased-out programme of preparation. This is why I was of the opinion that we should play a number of exhibition international matches which would help get the team into shape.

Unfortunately, the European tour was called off and this is why we went to Malaysia. When playing in a tournament one is always under tremendous pressure and this was not the best way to warm up for the Asiad. Nevertheless, Deitmar Pfeifer and others thought it best to go for the Merdeka and use it as a final trial before the Asian Games. This was endorsed by all of us in the Technical Committee. But all the same, I would personally have preferred the team not to go.

**SW** Is the confidence of the Indian team shattered after the debacle in Malaysia?

**PK** Then performance, undoubtedly, could have been better but as far as confidence is concerned, at least our defenders managed to salvage some of it. As far as holding or restricting a team is concerned, our showing was not too bad. But the problem arises when it comes to shooting. We have to score more goals against sides which are either on par or worse than us. Nowadays, only those who have the ability to both create and finish an attack play in the forward line and score the bulk of the goals. You have to be a specialist.

**SW** In the Indian team who would that specialist be?

**PK** That is what we lack. In the forward line you have to be exceptionally brilliant because one always has a rival defender breathing down one's neck. This is why it becomes increasingly difficult to manoeuvre, and frankly we do not have anyone in the Indian team who is versatile. What is more, our attackers do not fall back in defence.

**SW** The most serious criticism being levelled against the Indian performance at this year's Merdeka is, not that we lost, but the fact that the Indians could not score even a single goal.

**PK** Very true. The history of Indian football will show that we somehow have never managed to score on foreign grounds. Our goal-scoring ability as a whole has always been better on home ground. Take the Nehru Gold Cup as an example. Compared to that tournament, we were much better prepared for the Merdeka. But still, our overall performance in the former was much

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**Nevertheless, Deitmar Pfeifer and others thought it best to go for the Merdeka and use it as a final trial before the Asian Games. This was endorsed by all of us in the Technical Committee. But all the same, I would personally have preferred the team not to go.**

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better. This, once again goes to prove that we play much better at home. It is for this reason I am confident that we will do well at the Asiad at Delhi.

**SW** How can you say this when we do not have any semblance of organisation in the forward line?

**PK** To be very frank, our forward line is not very balanced. When we play with two wingers (Manash Bhattacharya and Bidesh Bose) and a striker (Shabir Ali) or for that matter with two strikers (Xavier Pius and Shabir) and only one winger, there are tremendous gaps in the forward line. The forwards lack the speed, endurance, manoeuvrability and movement to penetrate the rival defence, and take control of the open spaces.

**SW** What are your plans to rectify these drawbacks between now and the Asiad?

**PK** I do have some plans which I wish to implement soon. But there is no use discussing these plans because I hold that results are what count and unfortunately we have not been able to produce favourable results. So for the next two and a half months I want to prepare them.

**SW** But then, what have you been doing for the last eighteen months?

**PK** Once again, I feel the question of playing at home will be completely different. In Delhi I am confident that we will enter the semi-finals.

**SW** How do you intend to go about this task?

**PK** We plan to bring in one or two players who have not been attending the camps.

**SW** Who are the players you intend to call?

**PK** I cannot disclose the names now but we are contemplating including two strikers or attackers. In due course the AIFF will inform every one of their decision.

**SW** But would not this be unfair to the other footballers in the camp, considering that they have been training for the last 18 months?

**PK** There is no question of fairness or unfairness. What is important is that the goods have to be delivered. It is very plainly a question of survival of the fittest. If I cannot prove my worth at the Asiad, well then it is just too bad for me. Take Biswajit Bhattacharya as an example. I tried him in the match against Brazil. He was a super liaison between the attackers and the mid-fielders but in the 62nd minute he developed a severe colic pain and had to be replaced. This is the point I am trying to prove, whoever is fit enough to play plays. We cannot afford to have passengers.

**SW** Knowing we do not play well on foreign grounds how did you make the statement that you expected the team to reach the semi-finals?

**PK** I had all good intentions and seriously thought that we would make the semis. India had managed to do it last year and I thought we could do it again. When we arrived there the Press was very eager to know the extent of our preparation. There are thousands of Indians in Malaysia and quite obviously they were expecting a good show to be put up by us. Even after arriving there I made the same statement. But it was only later that I realised that Ghana had been placed in our group. The UAE were to be in our group and Ghana in the other after Pakistan had withdrawn. I expected India to put it across both, Thailand and Singapore. Anyway, no excuses. This is a big tournament and one must be ready to play against all the teams—you can't grumble. Nevertheless, it was a little harsh to us having to play against both, Ghana and Brazil.

## **There is no question of fairness or unfairness. It is very plainly a question of survival**

**SW:** How would you assess India's performance at the Merdeka?

**PK:** Against Thailand I feel we were the better side, we played an open game and should have won. Singapore played a good tactical game against us and our loss at their hands was the turning point of the tournament for us. We should not have lost to them. Our best performance in the tournament was against Brazil. For the first few minutes of the match my boys were abused and booed but then slowly the crowd began to acknowledge that we were playing good football and appreciated our efforts.

**SW:** India might have been able to hold Ghana to a draw if Bidesh.

**PK:** This is not the time to blame anyone in particular. However, in the match against Ghana after holding them till 12 minutes from the end, Bidesh Bose made a mispass and instead of the ball going to Prasanta Banerjee it came on a platter to George, a brilliant forward. He made no mistake—and put his side a goal ahead. But this is not the right time to criticise a player.

**SW:** Who was the person most to blame for the poor showing at Malaysia?

**PK:** It is I who am to blame. Yes, I am responsible. I have been training the team. The Technical Committee is there but as the head of the committee I accept that it was my fault. My only request to my patrons, the spectators, and all football lovers is to bear with me. In my career as a player and as a coach I've never gone through such a lean period. And I think something is coming—something is going to happen. If India does well I'll certainly retain my position, but otherwise I will find my way out, if I'm a 'no gooder'.

**SW:** In your opinion, who are the players who played well for India at the Merdeka?

**PK:** The deep defenders played particularly well, as did the midfielders. But our attackers did not come off—they were a complete failure. However, I do not wish to pin point any single player, as this might ruin their morale before the Delhi Asiad. Bhaskar Ganguly, our captain, was not his usual self. Malaysia has never been a happy hunting ground for Bhaskar. Even last year he could not play up to our satisfaction and like up to the high standards he has set for himself.

**SW:** Talking of Bhaskar, do you have any comment to make about his planned expulsion by a north India lobby, which appeared in a section of the Press?

**PK:** I don't consider all this

We are all Indians and in my eyes Harjinder Singh or Xavier Pius, or Bhramananda from Goa or Kumar from Karnataka, are all equal. I do not believe in provincialism, regionalism, and parochialism. As far as I am concerned the best players will play and it does not matter whether they come from any region or speak any language. If a player has leadership qualities and is worth his place in the team, well then, he should be the captain. It is very sad that people in India are making sport into a game of petty regional politics.

**SW:** How has Deitmar Pfeifer been helping you in preparing the Indian team for the Asiad?

**PK:** He is trying in his own way. He helps in developing the fitness level and also other things. Pfeifer also gives the defenders many valuable tips and helps implement defensive organisation based on the lines of modern football. I should say, he is trying his best. In fact, everybody is trying and once again I would ask all football lovers to cooperate with us.

**SW:** Training for the Asiad will resume on September 20. What are the methods of training you and the other coaches will be implementing

## **They (Indian players) are just not versatile enough. They just do not like thinking**

for the next two months?

**PK:** Each one has been allotted a different job. Arun Ghosh and Pfeifer have been put in charge of the defence. Besides, they are training the defenders to help in attack. Hakim has been instructed to take care of the mid-field and I will be handling the organisation of the forward line and what is most important is that I will, so to say, have to connect the mid-field with the forward line. I'll be teaching the boys certain planned moves. Unfortunately, our boys cannot analyse and work out things for themselves on the fields. So the attacking moves which are practised, one hopes, will come to them sub-consciously. When they are in a particular situation, the move will be a rehearsed one and they will not have to think.

**SW:** Is there any use of teaching the players such moves when they lack the basic skill and ability?

**PK:** Well, that is true. But the moves that have been prepared take into consideration the inability and ability of the Indian team. Nevertheless, we have, to a certain extent, adapted ourselves. Openings have to be created in a methodical way, as individually our players can do nothing. They are not versatile enough to dribble, dodge and set up goals for themselves. They just do not like thinking.

## **We plan to bring in one or two more players who have not been attending the camps**

**SW:** What is the primary reason for this lack of thinking power?

**PK:** Basically, our brand of play does not augment much thinking. Whenever the players are there, they are there, playing for the club. At this level of football there is simply no planning.

**SW:** Do you mean our forward line is weak or is it the other departments?

**PK:** Let us get this straight, a wing can only move if supported by the mid field and defence. Most foreign teams use their wing backs to overlap to a large extent. At the same time, the wingers should also fall back in defence. But we haven't got that type of a player in India.

**SW:** What should be done to improve Indian football?

**PK:** As I said before we have to begin at the grass roots and then improve the standard at the club level which is far below the international mark.

**SW:** What are your plans if India fare badly at the Asian Games?

**PK:** My plans? I will resign. I shouldn't say this without consulting the federation but with a humble apology I will submit my resignation. The country has given me a lot of responsibility and I am duty bound to live up to their expectation. Throughout my career, my credentials as a player and a coach have been undisputed. So if we do not fare well my conscience will not allow me to stay on. As a dispassionate person—not an official or P. K. Banerjee—I'll call it a day with a heavy heart. If the officials or Government ask me to carry on then it is a different question but as far as I am concerned, I won't carry on.

**SW:** Which team have the best chance of winning the football at the Delhi Asiad?

**PK:** What I said two years ago still stands. Three teams from the far East—South Korea, North Korea and China—and three from the Middle East—Iran, Iraq and Qatar have the best chance of being Asian champions.

**SW:** What are India's chances?

**PK:** We have to beat at least two of these teams to make the semi-final. We should—but now everyone will say, 'PK is talking too much'. Once again my intentions are good, we are trying very hard but it is a difficult task. I was inspired, and agree with what the President of the AIFT, Mr Ziauddin said after our debacle in Malaysia, "we might lose all the battles but not the war." So let's wait and see what happens at Delhi. That is what counts, all is still not lost.



AMALRAJ  
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



**CALCUTTA SOCCER LEAGUE**

# Mohun Bagan slide further back

With the issue of the league championship already decided in favour of East Bengal, both Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting took things rather easy and gave away a point each to go further down on the league table. SUBHASH SARCAR, SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL and DEREK O'BRIEN report on the matches

**MOHUN BAGAN** Over the years it has more or less become the pattern for the top teams to drop a couple of points in the hard grind of the Calcutta League. This year, however, two of the 'Big Three' have dropped points literally along the way leaving East Bengal clear winners. As has been mentioned before in these columns, after their defeat at the hands of East Bengal, Mohun Bagan lost all interest in the League.

The Railway sides have always been known for giving the better known teams a run for their money and BNR were no exception in their match against Mohun Bagan. They held the latter to a one-all draw, thereby causing the glamour team to

drop their seventh point of the league. As a result the League is now decided even though the green and maroons still have a handful of matches to play. It is suggested that in the future something should be done to keep the interest alive till the very end. This might be easier said than done. But what should be implemented is that the clash between the 'giants' should be played towards the end of the season. This will ensure to a certain extent that interest remains right to the end of the League.

In their match against BNR Bagan undoubtedly did have the major share of exchanges in the first half. The goal they scored had an element

of controversy shrouding it. Krishnendu Roy failed to get to a centre from Krishanu Dey. The ball instead travelled to Amitava Mukherjee, who many felt was offside. In fact, the linesman had even put up his flag to signal offside. The referee preferred to overlook it and Mohun Bagan were one up. The story would have been different if Ulaganathan had not missed an easy opportunity when he failed to convert a very good pass from Krishanu Dey.

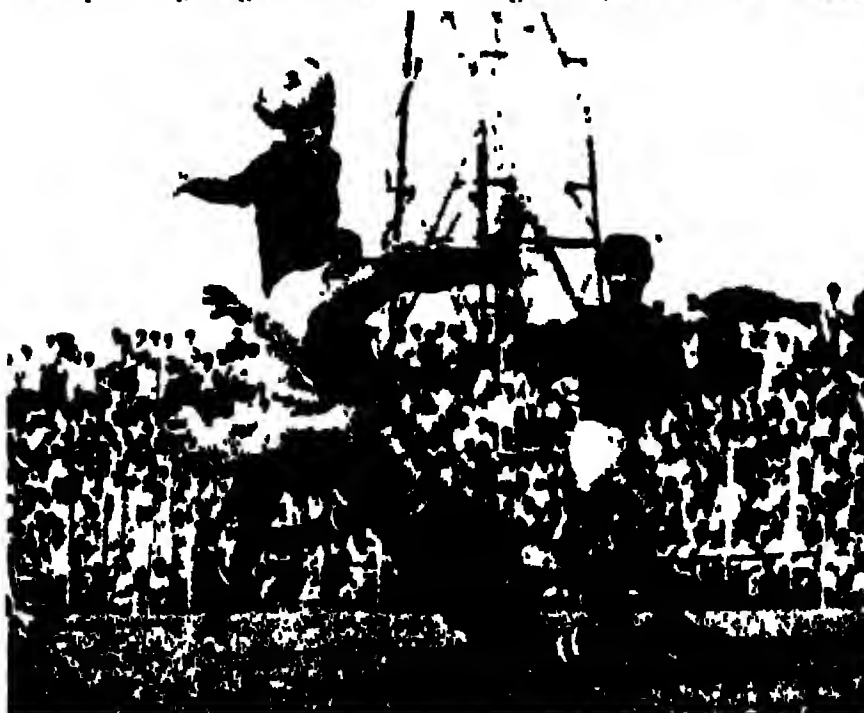
BNR got their equaliser in the second half when Pradip Pusti scored following a beautiful move which began deep inside their own half. There were no real signs of the glamour team pulling back—bringing to an end yet another disappointing display by a team which till only a few months ago had been on the topmost rungs of Indian soccer.

**MOHAMMEDAN S.C.** Regarding the home outfit's performance there's nothing to write about except that they were able to scramble home against a much junior Salkia Friends side. The appalling display left the fans exasperated because the goal came in the dying minutes of the game through the medio Uttam Mazumdar.

For 70 long minutes Mohammedan S.C. played purposeless football and it was a pity that the fighting Salkia boys failed to drive home the advantage because of a poor finish. The home team could have provided better football and Majid been in the ranks. He, along with Jamshid, went to Aligarh for his examinations and absence is greatly felt especially in view of the fact they were to face Wari in the next match. Against Salkia, the forwards were just helpless without the Iranian.

One omission that Mohammedan Sporting made was by not playing Shankar Adhikari who performed well in the previous tie against Kidderpore and also scored a goal. Surprisingly, Shankar who performed consistently in the Federation Cup and in the first three league matches, has not been given much of a chance this season. The reason is best known to the coach and club officials. Instead, Mani was asked to man the attack but he proved futile with the result that Debasish Ray and Somenath Banerjee had to put in that extra bit. Since Rabin Das was injured, Mukhtar Ahmed played as a stopper but he was a total failure. Mukhtar's lapses were proved advantageous to the Salkia frontliners but Moidul Islam and Anudeb Das exerted desperately to ward off critical situations.

Debasish Mishra was indisposed and Uttam Mazumdar and Eishad Hussain had to work hard as their forwards could do precious little. And it was Uttam who saved the day when he availed of a rebound off a defender after Anudeb Das had cen-



Subrata Bhattacharya of Mohun Bagan trying to put the ball past the BNR custodian

tred. But the goalkeeper Debasis Banerjee can be partly blamed for conceding the goal, too. Uttam's shot was a feeble one and how the custodian failed to anticipate it left the visitors confused and some disgusted.

**B**UT the story in the next match against Wari was totally different. Even without their star player, Majid, Mohammedan SC gave full satisfaction to the supporters when they beat Wari hands down 4-0. On a slushy ground Mohammedan SC played well but it leaves us thinking as to how inconsistent they can really be. This has been the very picture this season. One reasoning for their performance on this day was that they were out of pressure regarding the league title, and this could have made a lot of difference. They displayed better coordination and speed, the like of which was very seldom noticed.

Except for one occasion when Pratap Ghosh managed to fist over a Subir Sinha goal-bound header, he was at ease for the entire match. As for the Wari defenders it was pathetic to see them reeling under pressure. The home side could have scored many more goals but they did not as Somenath Banerjee was flexing his muscles for a hat-trick. His colleagues went all out to give him and the club the much-needed dosage but it was in vain. The third goal by a solo effort. It was in the 23rd minute after lemon time when Debasis sped down with the ball and came near scoring but a Wari defender prevented him. But in the next moment Debasis latched on to a faulty back-pass by Wari's Ashim



*Mohammedan Sporting's Somenath Banerjee (on the ground) scoring against Wari*

Das and drove home. However, Somenath had the rare consolation when he netted the fourth goal six minutes after Debasis's, when Latifuddin despatched a precise centre. Although Debasis Ray exerted tremendously, it was Shankar Adhikari who played the major role. In fact, he did the spade work for Somenath to score his second goal, while the other chances were wasted by the other forwards. Latif, too, worked out three beautiful through passes out of which Somenath was able to score his third goal.

When Wari took the field they played to the 4-3-3 formation just to

restrict the number of goals. Probably they would have given a fight but for the goal they conceded barely a couple of minutes after the start. Not that they could have held Mohammedan SC like they had done against Mohun Bagan, the early goal was enough to break their morale to a certain extent. But still they tried hard and Rupak Guha came out best from Wari's side as he was able to trouble Musheet Ahmed to a considerable extent.

**T**HE three big clubs normally have two engagements a week but Mohammedan SC had three. In the process, they lost their tenth point when they played their postponed match with Eastern Railway. Indeed, with a little more effort, the railway men could have triumphed.

On a wet ground, Debasis Ray sparkled for the first fifteen minutes but during this period he failed to get a proper opening. Thereafter he fell behind the scene and Shankar Adhikari shouldered the responsibility of spearheading the attack but to no avail. The midfield was well manned by an injured Debasis Mishra but the defence was a bit shaky although Moidul Islam covered well.

Play was mostly centred in mid-field and one of Railway's lapses saw Shankar Adhikari speed down the line to send a calculated pass to the unmarked Somenath Banerjee. It was the only chance the home side got but Somenath was quite hesitant in front of the confident goalkeeper Saraj Guha. Suddenly a defender dashed out but Somenath managed to pass the ball to substitute Latif, who took a prompt shot at goal. To the dismay of the spectators, however, it rebounded off the post.

**EAST BENGAL** It was in the fitness of things that the captain of the victorious home team, Amali Raj,



*A keen tussle for control of the ball during the Mohammedan Sporting-Saltia match*

## Bangladesh

**66** IN 1971 it happened under the leadership of Mujibur Rahman. Now after 11 years it has taken place once again—the rebirth of Bangladesh—this time under the leadership of Nishith Ghosh. That was the angry comment of a die-hard Mohun Bagan supporter when the calm of their club ground was disturbed by crackers thrown from outside by East Bengal supporters who were jubilating over their side's long-awaited victory in this year's league tournament.

Can you guess why the reference to Bangladesh? If you are one of those overzealous club fanatics who were imaginative enough to bring a fresh hilsa to the ground the day East Bengal celebrated their league victory and present it to one of the players, Kartick Sett, you should not have to strain your intelligence very hard to figure out the underlying meaning or this bitter comment from

one of your arch enemies.

But the fact is there did take place a number of incidents that were really exasperating for some people who, after a long weekday of hard work, took time off from the maddening city life with their beloved ones amid the peace of the greens of maidan. Groups of frenzied supporters rushed to the couples sitting around the Fort William and also inside the Eden Gardens and pestered them for treats to celebrate the victory of their favourites. Some couples ultimately had to yield to their demands and buy the cheering supporters fuchka and such other things.

But the most striking remark of the day was yet to hit the ears of this scribe. Suddenly one young man was seen running down the middle of the Red Road waving the club banner wildly and shouting at the top of his voice "Friends, today

we are not in Calcutta  
We are in Spain"

## Red and yellow

Mannada had bought a red and yellow cap. That was the discovery of some East Bengal officials on the day Mohun Bagan further disgraced themselves by conceding a point to Rajasthan. It was a cool Calcutta afternoon, an overcast sky laden with dark nimbus clouds and a mild monsoon wind blowing across the vast expanse of the maidan.

The lawn of the East Bengal Club was alive with delightful discussions, the topic being the same at every table—their long-awaited victory in the league tournament and the sad fate that had befallen their chief rivals in the running. Of course, the latter's subject had an edge the former, so far as interest was concerned. The significance of victory is in nothing but the humiliation of the enemies and there

they  
announced by a  
Rajasthan on the ground  
only next to theirs, visible  
from the tent compound.  
All in all, it was a perfect  
atmosphere. And the East  
Bengal people were not to let  
such a delightful evening go to  
waste.

So, there were frequent bursts of laughter, touched off by jokes at times light but most of the time too cutting for the Mohun Bagan sympathisers to be quoted here in print.

Then, suddenly, came the news of Mannada. But this time it was not just a joke. Saiten Mannada, the leading light behind whatever effort Mohun Bagan had made to win the championship, was indeed reported to have bought a football fan's cap, the colours of which were red and yellow. But this he had brought from Spain as a memento of the World Cup which he was fortunate enough to witness along with some other soccer veterans of the city. Could he ever think then that his choice of a mere cap would be the subject of such cruel jokes in his rival camp?





opened the account for his side with a brilliant goal on the day the East Bengal Club supporters celebrated their sixteenth triumph in the Calcutta Senior Division Soccer League. Before the start of the match coach Amal Dutta, along with his boys, ran round the ground carrying the club banner to a deafening crescendo of applause and cheers from their well wishers at the stand who waved flags of various sizes, burst crackers, released pigeons dressed in club colours and danced with a huge dragon mask, generally used by the city's Chinese community during their religious festivals.

Inspired by their commanding position, the East Bengal boys

started playing a spirited game right from the beginning and created quite a few openings which could have brought them an early break through, had the ball not missed the mark by a few inches. The man in superb action in the half line was the skipper Amalraj who always took it upon himself to regulate the pace of the game and keep the frontliners well lade with good, swift passes. It was he who first came close to scoring when in the 4th minute one rasping shot from him hit the cross piece dangerously after beating the Behala Youth custodian completely. The Behala Youth boys never fell back on the defensive, despite continuous pressure from their superior

rivals. The first chance came then way when a Robin Mukherjee shot had the same fate as that of Amalraj, and came off the crosspiece.

In fact, it was one of those rare occasions when a junior team has been seen to put up a brave performance against their fancied rivals in this year's Calcutta League. The Behala Youth boys had all the qualities expected of a standard footballer except experience. One of their frontliners Palash Banerjee always kept the East Bengal defence busy by making swift and clever moves into their danger zone. But the fault that was spoiling his game most of the time was his tendency to move through solo efforts.

East Bengal got their second goal through Tapan Das. But this time also the main source of the move was Amalraj who forwarded a brilliant through for the scorer who was standing in an unmarked position and had no difficulty to send it home with a grounder.

Another strong point for Behala Youth was that the goals could never dampen their spirits and they remained just as aggressive as in the beginning. And their efforts did not go unrewarded. In the 29th minute of the second half Subrata Roy reduced the margin with a deceptive grounder. But like Amalraj in the East Bengal side, the chief man in action in the Behala Youth frontline was Palash Banerjee and it was he who paved the way for his colleague Roy to score the goal.

East Bengal scored yet another goal towards the end and the match ended on a happy note with everybody satisfied to watch an inspired game in a joyful and tension free atmosphere.



A dangerous move by Mohammedan Sporting's Latifuddin (left) being joined by the Salus goalkeeper

# The politics of Mohammedan S.C.

SUBHASH SARCAR

**A**LL speculation as to which team would wrest the Senior Division League title has now come to rest, with East Bengal, under the stewardship of Amalraj, emerging on top. It is perhaps ironic that Amalraj had actually offered his services to Mohammedan Sporting before the season began. He had been thus advised by his brother John, who led the victorious black and whites in the 1967 league. But the club authorities were not prepared to meet his demands and he was ignored. Mohammedan S.C. must surely have realised by now just how costly their error was. Instead, the club inducted the three controversial Iranians—Majid Baskari, Jamshid Nasiri and Md. Khaleghi—for an exorbitant price despite the dissatisfaction of the honorary general secretary, Mr. Misbahul Haque, as well as a section of the top echelons of the club. It is gathered that when the Iranians discovered they were not wanted by the big clubs, they opted for Bangladesh but the club president, Mr. Ehsan Randeria, was adamant on the question of their inclusion. It is a well known fact that Mr. Randeria did a tremendous job last season to regain the prestigious league title after 14 years, but Calcutta's football fraternity feels that it was an expensive gamble. Maintaining a star team is always associated closely with spilling expenditure and a time always comes when a club has to draw a line somewhere. The dilemma is all too common whether to spend within the club budget or to go beyond it.

The general secretary who has a very realistic approach, indeed foresaw the outcome of last year's extravaganza. He realised that the club would soon be in troubled waters. "What is the income of the club? We have generous donors, but how long can we exceed our budget? The flow of money is not always going to be uniform? I have frequently emphasised that we must cut our coat according to the cloth. I love the club and my involvement with it dates back to 1972."

"Before the transfers began this year, I had stressed that we should make our club a training centre along the Aryan lines. They are reputed to be excellent producers of soccer talent and I sincerely wanted our club to follow suit. I know ours is an old institution, but that is all the more reason why we must concen-

trate on this aspect. Look at the senior players nowadays. It is just because of their professionalism that talented juniors are generally lost in the ultimate battle. I tried emphasising that junior players be inducted into the club. I disagreed with the idea of recruiting the Iranians and that is where the real trouble began," said the general secretary. According to an official who wants to remain anonymous, no sooner has Mr. Haque settled down to the task of succeeding Dr. Rafique Ahmed, than there was a bombshell in store with regard to the club's cricket team. Cricket secretary Arshad Saigal ventured to acquire the best cricket team available by jacking up the highest price thus far in the transfer market. He did succeed in obtaining a "double" in 1981, but his venture cost the club nearly Rs 3 lakhs. The same source adds that when the cricket secretary was making the deals with the players he did not even bother to take the consent of the general secretary. Interestingly enough, the functioning of the club centred around friends of Mr. Randeria's. Two of them, Arshad Saigal and Shahzada Parvez offered their services but their attitude did not exactly endear them to most of the club officials. It is learnt that Mr. Haque had hinted about their removal to the president but ill-feelings soon became apparent. Was it because of this that Mr. Saigal had to

step down from the post of assistant general secretary and Mr. Parvez, an able administrator, resigned as vice-president. There was a strong rumbling of discontent and a breakaway was inevitable in such a situation. The changes came after the annual general meeting. Ghulam Mustafa took over as football secretary and Iqbal Ahmed as assistant secretary. It seems, however, that the 1981 accounts were not furnished and most of the club's hockey and cricket players were aggrieved because their dues were not fully met.

When deciding the makeup of the football team this season, the club took a long time to reach an accord. Mr. Mustafa had the final say in the composition of the side and though the balance between local and outstation players was somewhat maintained the coming of the Iranians caused a lot of friction. Added to this was the presence of a 'semi-official' who unnecessarily hampered the smooth functioning of the club. Eyebrows have been raised about his utility but no one knows who has given him the necessary authority. According to the source, this person even threatened the players the day of the crucial match against East Bengal saying that they would have to win at all costs. Perhaps it was enough to unsettle the team. One wonders why the football secretary allows such things.



Ehsan Randeria with some of the players who gave Mohammedan Sporting the Sikkim Governors Gold Cup and DCM trophy



Before the Iranians joined the fray, the attacking combination of Shankar Adhikary, Nirmal Chatterjee, Somenath Banerjee and Debashis Ray played extremely well in the first few matches though Majid showed some of his talent later in the league. But those who watched the outstation players closely—and this category includes club official, members and supporters—are not very impressed with their performances. Even substitutions were made in a most haphazard fashion, which affected the players' morale. Interestingly, the semi-official talked of earlier, behaved as though he was both coach and selector.

"I endorsed Nayeemuddin's name as coach because he is able to handle the junior boys well," said Mr Haque, adding, "I told him to give the newcomers proper chances." Indeed Nayeem went about his business in a serious attempt to get the team in trim, but their performances on the whole has been very inconsistent. One major reason could be the attitude of the semi-official which has brought the morale of the players to a low ebb. The football secretary should have intervened in time. "I fully agree that the handling of the team was not done properly," said Mr Haque.

This lack of consistency certainly spelt danger and Railway FC and Aryan drove the point home.

Mohammedan Sporting, had never conceded so many points in a league season, even when they had sides which were weaker than the present one. The incident on the day of the match against RFC—which was the worst this season—exposed the annoyance on the part of the fans and members. Both the president and the secretary denounced the kind of attitude displayed by Pem Dorji and Jamshed Nassiri.

Said Mr Haque "How can indiscipline be tolerated? We had no option but to suspend them. Even the police and the Indian Football Association applauded our action. Let me tell you that I played no part in relaxing the suspension. In fact, I was out of station when this decision was taken and it really surprised me." What was more humiliating for the club was that the IFA League Subcommittee decreed that Jamshed would have to be suspended for the remaining league matches while Dorji would have to sit out the whole season, barely after the working panel had decided to reduce the suspension. Things became worse with regard to the bossy attitude of certain people with no authority and in disgust Mr Misbahul Haque tendered his resignation. It is rumoured that two other vice presidents too have followed suit.

At the moment Mr Haque has a lot

of sympathy from senior club officials and members too. This is not to slight the president but his cool temperament and generosity have been exploited to a great deal. He must gear himself up now to save the old institution from unsavoury elements. The general feeling is that the club portfolios have been given to the wrong people, thereby leading to poor administration. It is gathered that Mr Haque has tremendous support among those who count. The president would do well to retain him. In the words of the former general secretary "My resignation does not mean that I stay aloof from the club. I still remain on the committee and I will always be at the service of the club. I know that my resignation will not be accepted by the president," said Mr Haque. Certainly the president knows how indispensable Mr Haque is.

The members also demand to be told what has happened to the nearly Rs four lakhs taken from them for the extension of members' stands. But Mr Haque clears all doubts. "The money for the extension work is in the care of the president. It was not possible to start work during the league, but the project will definitely begin after the IFA Shield."

Meanwhile, all is not well with Mohammedan Sporting. And unless someone does something constructive, the malaise will remain.

## Constitutional Right

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for one's constitution

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Is veri veri lime'n' lemon!



*The average fan maintains a life-long affection for the club that introduced him to the game. The team's fortunes become a barometer of his existence, each milestone forever etched in his mind, alongside some historic events at the ground*—Robert Oxby

"Playing cricket is a physical slog and there is also no substitute for being fitter"—Kevin Emery, a promising young cricketer of England

"Violent conduct is a scandalous offence wherever it occurs"—Robert Oxby, a noted English soccer writer

"I have nothing to prove from now on. All three races were what I needed to tell myself that I can run consistently around 1min 45sec and faster when I want to. I have covered all eventualities and I am happy to be going to Athens"—Sebastian Coe

"I want to come back to Argentina and play for River Plate"—Ricardo Villa, Tottenham's Argentine midfield player

"Some people are making me the favourite to beat Overt of the gold medal in the European championships in Athens. The race tonight gives me the chance to do something in my own right"—Steve Cram before running in the 1500m at the international meeting in Zurich

"As an example of how to recover from all kinds of troubles Overt has to look no further than Coe. Many experienced eyes were watching him in Zurich, wondering about the seriousness of his injury. After two months away from racing and longer still from his own speciality, it seemed barely credible that he could produce the acceleration out of the last bend, hold back the speed when he was clear of his rivals, and then deliberately trot the last few steps—just to

keep his European rivals and the promoters guessing"—John Rodda

"Cowans is qualified for England and is now being muttered about as the selectors flail around for fast bowlers. He is beyond question faster than contenders like Jackman, Jarvis, Small and Emery. He is probably faster than Willis or Dilley. What is more doubtful is whether, after a handful of first class games, he has the experience or stamina to come off in Test cricket"—Matthew Engel about the promising Middlesex bowler N G Cowans

"Dilley bowled a good spell at the start yesterday and must still be the best of the fast bowling prospects. There was also a useful piece of seam bowling by Emery who took four for 46 and brought his season's tally of first class wickets to 67. At 22, he is short of experience and at the moment too prone to bowling no balls. He will probably always take plenty of wickets in English conditions"—Henry Blufeld

"Our marketing and publicity objectives are not the same now as they were when we began sponsoring cricket. We have been very pleased with the success of the Prudential competitions and I am sure the 1983 cup will be as good in its expanded format. Alec Davis, operations manager of Prudential, announcing the company's last involvement in international cricket

"It born in Britain, all well and true. It not, hard luck I note that Yorkshire and the Australians pursue a similar approach. Is it too much to hope that we might pull our heads out of the sand?"—a letter in the Wisden Cricket Monthly

"A quiet afternoon at the Lord's is the perfect occasion for a bit of reshaping



the lifestyle and redefining the goals of our earthly existence. That isn't why I go to Lord's, but it is inevitably what happens once I get there"—Jonathan Rice

"Although I am a great cricket fan, it has always struck me how much inactivity there appears to be to a non-committed spectator. Therefore, with my digital stopwatch I timed one hour's play. On the cuff I can think of no other sport where such a low proportion of action exists, unless it be Pained breeding at London Zoo—a cricket fan in the Wisden Cricket Monthly

Well, Qadir is young and now a practiced and experienced cricketer, and his captain is a close colleague. Let us wait, fingers crossed. Cricket needs all the high class spin bowling it can get"—Qamar Ahsan on Abdul Qadir

"To toss the ball high, with spin, is a delicate balance act which needs perfect timing, coordination, confidence and no little faith. The slightest interference with this truly magical process will ruin the result, and I believe that the crowding

holders are doing just that"—Ted Dexter on the problems of effective slow bowling

"Willis is obviously only a temporary captain, appointed to keep the statisticians' books balanced. But don't bet on David Gower to take over the reins soon"—Wisden Cricket Monthly

"Wicket-keepers are too often an overlooked breed. They crouch all afternoon until their knee joints throb—and they don't usually get remembered when Man of the Match awards are being distributed"—David Foot

"Playing cricket has been a battle for the past two or three years. Now I realise that failure doesn't mean the end of the world. It used to"—Kevin Sharp, one of Yorkshire's brightest prospects

"The minority Parsis, originating out of Persia, were the first to take to the game and when the Hindus and Muslims saw the social acceptance this carried with it, they were prompted to take an interest. Still an urban game, once cricket spreads to rural areas of India on an organized basis, the sheer weight of numbers could lead to a formidable national team"—David Firth

"Cricket talk, especially when geared to comparisons against and among players of the past, is usually futile, but often fun"—David Firth

"Arlott's retirement removed the last support from the crumbling edifice. He was the voice of cricket. I will simply say that his vocal descriptions of cricket with quality of words complemented by that unique voice, filled my mind with pictures so vivid that watching became superfluous"—E J Brackman, radio coverage of cricket

## Regional round-up

### CALCUTTA

#### Disorganised meet

THE State Swimming Association has a strange way of functioning and what it has done for the sport is less said the better. To begin with it has done precious little in talent scouting thus far. The Calcutta Improvement Trust had allotted a standard pool which had a chlorination plant to the State unit to train boys and girls for the future. But the net result was that the pool was uncared for. Today the pool is a pitiable sight and no one dares to take a plunge into it.

Interestingly, instead of renovating the pool—the only State run one—the State Government has built an 'unrecognised' 25 metre pool for swimmers of tomorrow. Once again, it is only a matter of time when this miniature pool for minors will start to decay. However, coming back to the State body it's only status is holding the annual competition. It goes about making fervent requests to clubs to loan their heavy water tanks to run the show. In a way one can conclude that the State body is always at the mercy of the clubs.

Ludicrously, there was some ambiguity of the schedules. At least *Sportsworld* did not get an invitation. Did all the local dailies know about it? As it is the Swimming Association is in a bad shape, but can't it at least afford to print scoresheets for the State meet? They literally had to borrow the sheets from Puddapukur Youngmen's Association. Said one of the club officials, "As it is we are allowing them to stage the State competition but it is all the more pathetic that they have to ask our club for scoresheets." And do you know who was present to see the day's proceedings? The present Swimming Federation of India secretary Dilip Mitra. Being the godfather of the National Swimming Association, Mr Mitra is at loggerheads with the State Association. And anyone can make his own conclusions as to what help the SFI will render to its poor affiliate.

There were a little more than fifty participants from Calcutta and the three neighbouring districts—24 Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly. In fact, Bengal swimming is centred on these four. The light refreshments for the entrants by the organisers was a mere apple. However, hunger was supplemented by snacks channelled through the respective clubs. Many State records fell but can it be said that the timings were exact? Present day swimming demands synchronised watches and sadly no one had it. For a swimmer exact timing is



Mina Thapa

very essential for further improvement. The State body seems quite disinterested about it or keeping track of swimmers. Believe it or not, there was a participant from Calcutta who was unable to have his heats. But he was represented by one of his friends in the heats and it is learnt that the original entrant swam in the finals.

Howrah was in the limelight with Mina Thapa establishing three meet records and being adjudged the best teenage swimmer. But Debojit Kar redeemed Calcutta's prestige by coming out best among the boys. Howrah's Biswajit Ghosh bettered Sudhir Das's 1500 m mark (20 11 4) by clocking 19 38 7, while teammate Kajal Mondal timed 11 55 5 for the first place in the 800 m. Howrah claimed both the boys and girls 400 relay, the latter breaking Puddapukur's 1977 record of 5 22 5 by finishing on 5 13 00. Mina Thapa had a share in the glory besides her three records. She became the 'butterfly'

queen when she broke both the 100 and 200 m record which stood in the name of Bula Choudhury. She erased both marks created in 1981 (100 m—1 17 3 and 200 m—2 55 9). She bettered her own 200 m individual medley when she figured 2 55 4. Howrah's Avijit Ghosh too rewrote his own 200 m butterfly timing clocking 2 22 9. Dilip Bagui of Hooghly did himself proud by putting into the background Madhu Halder's 1977 100 m breast mark by clocking 1 16 1 and went a step further with the 200 m breast record of 2 50 5 (Safal Mullick's was 2 51 1). Debojit Kar did a new timing of 2 31 9 in the 200 m individual medley.

#### Oars well that ends well

THE course of the lake at Rabin-dra Sarobar will be one of the busiest ever this December when, in all probability, Asia's top oarsmen will be seen in action. Let's not mistake this for the Asian Games event at the Ramgarh Lake in Jaipur, which will be over by November 25.

Pioneers of rowing in India, the Lake Club has decided to take this venture to commemorate their Golden Jubilee celebrations. So local oarsmen and enthusiasts who will be missing the Asian event may look forward to some real action. In fact, the invitations to the top Asian rowing countries—and if it materialises—is going to be a showpiece in the list of celebrations. And there are so many diehards in the Lake Club who will not rest until they succeed.

December is still quite some time away but celebrations have already begun with much fanfare. The inauguration took place on August 28 with the West Bengal Governor Mr B D Pande formally launching two "Pairs" boats. In a sportive mood Mr Pande went a step further when he was at the helm of boat as a cox. The opening ceremony was followed by the anniversary regatta.

Recalling the good old days the club president Mr B Roychoudhury said Mr Bhaya Sen was the first Indian to win for the club the prestigious Maklin's Scull in the Amateur Rowing Association of the East in 1938. He made mention of Sam Mendore's feat in the singles scull also.

SUBHASH SARCAR

#### LMOB champions

COME the monsoons and the city's rugby enthusiasts tune their muscles for the Calcutta Cup which has been played on the grounds of the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club for the last ninety-two years.

This year the enthusiasm was even more because it is once again Calcutta's turn to host the All India and South East Asia tournament. The national event will begin in mid-September, a fortnight after the completion of the Calcutta Cup.

Six teams, the same as last year, took part in the local tournament. The sides were La Martinere Old Boys (who won the tournament for the fifth year in succession), their second team the Tigers, Calcutta Police, Armenians, Calcutta Cricket and Football Club and City Old Rugger. It was a foregone conclusion that the LMOB would take home the trophy as they had in their ranks the same players who had won the All India Tournament held in Bombay last year. They finished all their matches without being defeated and even though they did not play the brilliant rugby which one associates with them they were never really stretched.

Matches were played on Wednesdays and Saturdays and were always witnessed by a large crowd. LMOB had no problems putting it across the Tigers, Police and City Old Rugger. However, the Armenians only conceded a try (4 points) against the black and yellow jerseyed champions. The CC&FC who earlier played out a draw against the Armenians, won their other matches till they went down fighting to an overconfident LMOB. This was, undoubtedly, the best match of the tournament. The eventual winners scored a try following a beautiful movement. A few minutes later B. Gomeze was unfairly tackled and instead of a penalty try being awarded only a kick was. A penalty try might have put the glamour team under a bit of pressure but would have in no way affected the final outcome of the match.

It was unfortunate that none of the teams in view could move their wing three quarters well. Instead most of them relied mostly on up and unders with the LMOB being exceptions on a few occasions. Scissor bouts of passing between Babul McLeod and Glen Martin were always a treat to watch. Vece Paes the ex-hockey Olympian was very safe as the CC&FC back and Pradeep Paul of the Tigers excelled in the match against Police when he ran a good 100 metres before touching down. Rajeev John was awarded the 'Best Player of the Tournament' but other players to impress were David Gaspar of the Armenians, Peter Aratoon of the Tigers, Darryl Martin of LMOB and—in my mind the best player of the tournament—the big American Machine John Frodo.

This sport which on one occasion was described as the gentlemen's game is slowly catching on in popularity in the city and one sincerely hopes that more people will take to it. There are teams from Bombay, Bangladesh and possibly one from

Sri Lanka who will be taking part in the All India tournament. This should provide the impetus to popularise the game, till now embarrassingly neglected in India.

## Football for the over forties

It has been said before but let one say it again. People in this city are crazy about football. Whether you are below forty or on the wrong side of forty it does not really matter. The Calcutta Rangers Club, once one of the big names of the game in the city, organised an Invitation Football Tournament for players over forty. The rules of the game complied with the gentlemen for whom lumbago and heart attacks have become a way of life. Each team were only allowed five players in their ranks, the goalposts were smaller than the normal size, the dimensions of the field were less, and what is most important was that the ball could only be kicked below waist level.

Keeping all these rules in mind the 'old men' got onto the rain-soaked Rangers ground. The tournament was held on a league basis with the three teams—Dallhousie Institute, Gail Club and the hosts—all playing against each other. The home supporters were a little disappointed when their team lost both their matches. However, it was all part of the fun and no one really did mind.

Gail Club who had a few 'younger' over forties in their team beat the Dallhousie Institute in a well contested final, by 7 goals to 2. O. Tennant was awarded the 'Best Player of the Tournament' prize. The 62 year old H. D'Souza did a great job between the posts and P. C. Wong of the D. I. also turned on a vintage performance. The tournament was followed by a sumptuous lunch after which both player and spectator went home in high spirits. "It was, after all," as one player remarked, "a social gathering for the has-beens."

DEREK O'BRIEN

## BOMBAY

### Football politics

It is not uncommon on the Indian sports scene to find two bodies or associations both claiming to represent a sport in a particular region. The lust for power through sports for some officials manifests itself in the form of infighting and back-biting and has reached such alarming levels that it no longer raises eyebrows to know that parallel bodies are existing. Swimming, hockey, athletics, table tennis and football to name a few are "victims" of this plague—which is the bane of Indian sport.

Either it is a few disgruntled people who have broken away from the officially affiliated association and formed a parallel body or it is a section that alleges that the association is neglecting the sport and thus promotes an alternative platform.

The latest to join these exalted ranks is the Maharashtra Football Association (MFA), whose members "are disillusioned with the Western India Football Association (WIFA)." Like in all such controversies amidst the rhetoric and the confusion it is not easy to say who is right and who is wrong and who is telling the truth.

Of the 29 districts in Maharashtra, the MFA claims 24 are with them and as the majority is with them they should be the affiliated unit in Maharashtra of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). On the other hand, WIFA has referred to the MFA as a paper tiger.

To justify its formation, the MFA has drawn up a list of eleven charges against the WIFA. Absence of inter-district tournaments, no elections to the WIFA, nor any meeting of the district bodies, utter neglect of the game in other parts of Maharashtra except in Bombay, no visits by WIFA officials to study the problems of the district, no coaching camp or referees clinics. The list continues. A tendency of the WIFA to encourage discontent in certain areas like Pune and Nasik funds were never made available to WIFA in spite of collection, a constitution which was framed during the pre-Independence days governs the WIFA, violation of the government guidelines with respect to district representation on the WIFA and lastly that the team that represents Maharashtra in the Nationals is made up entirely of Bombay players, are the charges made by MFA.

As proof of its genuine interest in football vis-a-vis Maharashtra, the MFA has organised an inter-district tournament which will be held in Sholapur in the first half of September. Also the MFA in months to come promises to raise the football fever that is conspicuously at low key in Maharashtra as compared to Bengal.

E. V. Ganla, the Pune-based President of the Maharashtra Football Association, remarks that, "WIFA earns gate money from the Harwood League, Rovers Cup and Nadkarni Tournament. Where does all this money go to? None of it ever seems to be filtering back to the interiors of the State. It is shocking that after the tremendous following of football in Bombay, the city still does not have a proper stadium with basic facilities. We have had enough and now propose to charge everything."

Oddly enough the personalities, at least a few of them, on the all India body, Khalifa Ziauddin its President and Magan Singh, the chairman of the selection committee were at some time or the other connected with the WIFA.

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The MFA will have to give conclusive proof of the support it enjoys in the district before the AIFF can recognise it as its duty affiliated unit in Maharashtra. Till then, irrespective of whether the MFA or WFA is in charge, one hopes football will not take a back-seat to this tussle.

HARESH MUNWANI

## DELHI

### Records and rowdiness

**S**WIMMING in Delhi has always evoked responses of keen rivalry. Many years ago when swimming was restricted to a smaller sphere one remembers the rivalry among the elitist institutions like Modern School and St Columba's. There are now many more pools in the different residential colonies of the capital and the pattern of rivalry has changed.

Rivalry is always good provided it helps improve standards, which is why the Delhi Administration spent so much money in building the pools. But for all those meet records broken by the dozen at the Delhi State Championships, the standard has not improved commensurately. The improvement may be all right by local standards, but nothing to make an impact on the national scene.

The rivalry rose to most disgraceful depths in the water polo final between Swatantra Bharat Mills (SBM), and Jugle Singh Fairak Sangh (JSTS). An under-water exchange attracting the expected penalty from the referee, provoked such anger in Roy Kumar, one of the two ordered out of the pool, that he pulled a chair from under a shocked spectator and hurled it at his opponents in the water. With that pandemonium broke loose. When it was learnt that the police had been summoned many of the players bolted. When the chief guest, Mr Kedar Pande, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, arrived, the embarrassed organisers advised him to return without distributing the prizes.

Earlier, 15-year-old Balraj Rath of swimming coaching institute stole the show almost every afternoon of the five-day meet and emerged with five records in the boys division. But it was chubby little Surbhit Chaudhry who took one back to the more cultured times when another Chaudhry used to claim attention as a back stroke champion. Surbhit, who was adjudged all-round champion in the sub junior boys category, is the son of the eminent, soft-spoken eye surgeon, Sushil Chaudhry, who had to cut swimming out of his life to excel at his medical studies. That was a quarter century ago. Only time will tell what the future holds for Surbhit and brother, Sanubh, who has also promisingly followed in the footsteps of papa Chaudhry.

## Judo 'Test'

**J**UDO, a fledgling sport in the north, broke fresh ground when a team from Sri Lanka were engaged in a "Test" with "Northern India" in an event organised at Ghaziabad by the UP Judo Foundation. The Sri Lankan "judokas" found their "Northern India" opponents too good in the three bouts. It was all over in half an hour.

"Northern India" won two bouts and the third, between G Tata and Sri Lankan police inspector Upali



Sumant Kaul throwing Hara Kashi of Sri Lanka

Sahabandhu, ended in a draw. The winners for Northern India were Ravi Kapoor, who struggled hard to beat Kithsiri De Zoysa, and Sumant Kaul, who showed refined skill to beat Raja Fernando in four minutes.

### Bedi gets ready

**D**ELHI, the Ranji Trophy champions, seem quite aware that defending a national title is even more difficult than winning it. The cricket season is still some way off but Bishan Singh Bedi has already put Delhi's cricketers through a lot of hard preparatory work. Before they actually get down to practise with bat and ball they should be fighting fit.

Quite a few stalwarts of the Delhi team have been away playing in the English cricket leagues. In any case, they are in close touch with the game. It is the others, especially the

youngsters, who have benefited most, though the most enthusiastic of them all is a veteran—Chetan Chauhan (35). His enthusiasm and staying power is infectious. The initial list of 40 odd has been pruned down to 22. For many of them getting into the Delhi Ranji team is likely to remain a distant dream.

Under Mohinder Amarnath, Delhi defeated Karnataka in an epic final to win the national championship last year at a time when Delhi cricket was passing through a period of bitter strife and dissensions. One would have wished that all that is happily over. But even as Bedi is putting the probabilities through their paces there are uneasy signs of trouble again. Two of the three Amarnath brothers, Surinder and Rajinder, have not bothered to report for training, nor cared to give any reasons for doing so. Players like N P Singh and Sudhir Pathak also appear hurt at not finding themselves fitted into the scheme of things. They are reported to be looking out for fresh pastures.

Bedi himself is facing criticism for his divided loyalties, although he has made a belated announcement that he has resigned as chairman of the Punjab selection committee. All this, of course, is another aspect of the cricket scene which could be dealt with another time. If Delhi, in spite of all its troubles, went on to win the Ranji Trophy last year, it might well go on to repeat the feat again in the coming season such is the capital's cricket strength.

## MADRAS

### Upsets in cricket league

**M**AJOR interest in the last week has centred around the Senior Division Cricket League. Matches contested by top teams are generally watched by good crowds and this year the games involving Alwarpet Cricket Club, Jolly Rovers, Madras Cricket Club and State Bank have been followed with keen interest. When the season commenced on July 17, it did seem like it would be a two-horse race—Alwarpet C C and Jolly Rovers. The two teams had the cream of the State squad plus one Test cricketer on each side—Srikanth for Alwarpet C C and Bharat Reddy for Jolly Rovers. However at the time of writing—the two teams which have come off well are India Pistons, which has in their ranks T E. Srinivasan and Madras Cricket Club, which has among its representatives, Venkataraghavan. Pistons have played five games and have 38 points while MCC 36 from the same number of games.

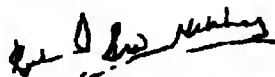
Jolly Rovers are not far behind—33 from five games but Alwarpet C C



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have only 23 points from four encounters. Holders State Bank are faring better—34 from five games. All teams play eleven matches. There will be a break for about three weeks now as the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association will concentrate on conducting the Buchi Babu invitation tournament, the prestige event for the TNCA and a popular competition in the city. This year five teams are participating in the tournament which commenced on August 28. Two are local sides, the TNCA XI and the TNCA President's XI which between them comprise the best talent available in the State.

## Inter-collegiate meet

THE Beitram Memorial Tournament conducted by the Loyola College is the most important event for collegiate lads in the South. The meet, always well organised, lasts more than ten days and attracts a large number of outstation colleges from Tamil Nadu and Andhra. This being the golden jubilee year of the Beitram Tournament, the organisers decided to conduct it in a big way. They invited more colleges and added cricket to the six events they already conduct—tennis, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, ball badminton and chess. As usual interest centred on the Stanley Cup, the tennis singles event. This cup has been won in the past by such stars as Ramanathan Krishnan, Anand Amritraj, Vijay Amritraj and Ramesh Krishnan. This year in one of the most lopsided finals ever, S Vasudevan demolished Vivek Kumar Reddy 6-0, 6-0, 6-1 in 80 minutes. The India junior star had won the title in 1978 but thereafter had not participated because of commitments abroad. In his absence Reddy won the title twice but was plainly in distress against Vasudevan who later on went on to complete a double by winning the doubles title too.

The table tennis singles title was in direct contrast to the tennis singles final. It was a thriller. There was little to choose between the two lads V R Bharathi and H Shyam. The former won a well contested match.

The volleyball title was claimed by Aditanai College, In chendur, while Loyola won the Basketball event.

ARTAB RAMCHAND

## BANGALORE

### Cash bonanza

TOP class Karnataka sportsmen and women in for a cash bonanza for the first time. The Karnataka Government, through its Directorate of Sports and Youth Services, introduced cash incentives for the State sportsmen and women who win any of the first three places at the Olympic World level (category A), Asian



Anand Shetty

(b), international (c) national (d) and State championships (e) level competitions. The cash awards vary from Rs 10,000 for Olympic World Meet gold to Rs 250 for State level winners.

A total of Rs 1,32,000 has been set aside towards the cash awards for athletes who excelled at various meets held during the period of April 1981 to June 1982.

Anand Shetty, who won the silver medal for sprints at the Seoul Junior International Meet was richly awarded for his performance there and another Rs 1,000 for representing the country. But 'Bangalore Mermaid' Anisha Prasad, a petite swimmer from Baldwin School, benefited the most. She got Rs 7,000 for her performances throughout the year, which included two gold medals in the national swimming meets. Under this scheme, the players receive the payment directly and not through their associations. Thus this eliminates any mischief and delay.

### New schemes

THE new scheme coincides with the silver jubilee of Karnataka. As a 'jubilee present' the government has decided to present each of the athletes a pair of spikes so that they can run comfortably on the new Olymprene track at New Delhi's Nehru Stadium.

The government has started the Karnataka State Sports Welfare Fund designed to safeguard the interests of sportsmen and women who have secured individual championships or have been members of the State team which won the championship at various representative meets. Only these sportsmen and women will be eligible for membership, whose annual fee is Rs 10. The members will derive benefits such as financial assistance for their families, which will also be protected in case of member's death, illness or injuries. This is indeed a laudable venture on the part of the government. The men behind this are Minister of Youth Services, Mr Gangadhar Gowda and Director of Sports Mr A J Anandan.

### Railway golf

RAILWAYS had their golf championships in Bangalore. The Railway Board, extended their tenure over the title with an aggregate of 551 points. The Board team consisted of former Railway champions S N Bhat, Anup Singh, M S Bidi and R K Sarkar. They finished the first day ahead of others with a score of 278 points and fared even better the next day when they aggregated to win the title. Diesel Loco Works, Varanasi and North Eastern Railway finished second and third, respectively.

However, the individual honour went to P Narwaria of DLW, who won a brace of titles—best golfer and best scorer with 164 points (two rounds) and 79 points, respectively. A K Aich of Eastern Railway won the handicap section with 148 points pipping I M Sethi (149 points).

### Benefit for Chandra

B. S. CHANDRASHEKHAR, one of the world's greatest leg spin and googly bowlers, has been granted a benefit match by the Karnataka State Cricket Association. The match will be held at Shimoga (240 km from Bangalore) on October 30 and 31 this year. Chandrashekhara has plans to invite top players of both past and present. The players are expected to accept his invitation. The benefit match was originally scheduled for April, this year. But since the Indian team was away at England, the match had to be postponed.



poned to October. He also plans to bring out a souvenir to mark the occasion. Chandra has played 58 Tests for India and has been the recipient of Arjuna Award and the Padma Shri. He is the first Karnataka player to get the benefit match.

SHANTHI MCHANPANI (A)

## What's not cricket

"If you can't be a cricketer for heaven's sake, try to look like one", advised an exasperated captain to a young and pampered player who, after having fielded deplorably, walked out of the dressing room with dirty bants, unclean faces, torn pads and batting gloves, a bandaged bat and, above all, a wrist watch and a golden ring on his right hand finger.

Such an unedifying spectacle of a player walking on the ground in shabby clothes generally has a demoralising effect on his teammates. Just as a soldier pays meticulous attention to his clothes and equipment for a smart and efficient turn-out, similarly every cricketer, whether a club player or a Test star, must ensure an impeccable appearance.

I can recall a story which, though totally unrelated to cricket, clearly shows the importance of confidence. During the World War II, England was on the verge of crumbling. The situation was tense and Sir Winston Churchill was concerned and worried. Once he was about to reach the venue of a Press conference, which he felt could be his last one, when he ordered the chauffeur to return home. On way, the driver mustered his courage to ask, "Sir, you will be late to the Press conference to day". Churchill replied, "Yes, I am aware. But I have no option except to

turn home to pick up my cigar. Had these bastard journalists seen me without cigar, they would have concluded that I am a worried leader, which, though I am, I do not wish the journalists to know."

The sermon is that in cricket, like in war, confidence is most important and success cannot be achieved individually or collectively without it.

There is an unwritten law that every player must make sure before the start of a match that his hair and nails are properly trimmed. But this golden rule is often broken by even celebrated stars these days. This is most unfortunate. Long hair is likely to disturb one's concentration, particularly when strong cross breeze is blowing. Long finger nails may get damaged when fielding and long toenails may cause considerable discomfort.

It is an established fact that equipment plays an important role in ensuring success. Disregard in this respect has often proved disastrous. Quite often many batsmen allow straps of leg guards to be loose and buckled outside providing one ample opportunity for mistaken appeal for a catch at the wicket and the umpire stand it difficult to take a quick decision because of the sound and deviation of the ball.

Let Col. J. G. Todd French tell us, "Look, It's not cricket" is a few useful suggestions for the young aspirants and players.

**"First clothing"** Bearing in mind that the best is usually the cheapest in the long run. Choose good thick flannel shirts which will absorb perspiration and prove a safe guard against chills, flannel trousers of good, sound texture, preferably made to measure and neither too close fitting nor excessively baggy with straps and buckles at sides in back, but no hip pocket, which is both unnecessary and unsightly, a sweater of full length, open at the neck, but use only in cold and damp weather, thick white wollen socks, hand made if possible and buckskin boots of good quality with broad toe cup and stout soles well studded with nails.

In the all important selection of bats, the advice of an experienced relative or friend should

be sought. Make no mistake about it, unless your tools are the best obtainable, you will be unable to make satisfactory progress towards efficiency. It is essential that your bats should be by well known makers but little attention need be paid to the autographs of prominent players, the practice of procuring signatures for bats being only one of the many deplorable modern fads of cricket commercialisation.

Make sure that your chosen bats are neither too heavy to be easily wielded as this would seriously impair stroke play and tend to affect your timing and so limit as to restrict the power of your shots. Here are some problems.

**Q** A fielder leaves the field or is absent from the field for longer than 15 minutes.

Can he be allowed to bowl on his return?

**A** No, he cannot. He will have to spend as much time on the field before he is allowed to bowl. This law has been amended recently to prevent top bowlers getting indoors to steal much needed rest before returning to operate.

**Q** A batsman retires without giving satisfactory and convincing reason for doing so. Can he resume his innings?

**A** It all depends upon the rival captain. The law 2(9) reads, "If he leaves the field on retirement for any reason he may only resume his innings with the consent of the opposing captain."

**Q** The umpires are of the view that light is insufficient. But the batsmen think otherwise. The game continues and suddenly one of the batsmen appeal against the light. What will be the umpires' decision?

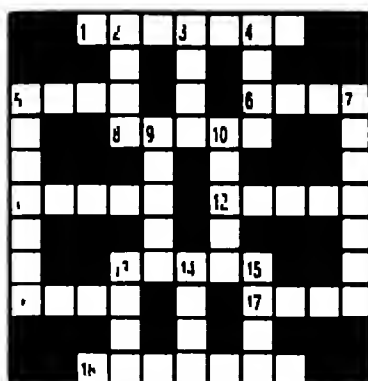
**A** The law as amended is clear. Law 3(8)(iii) reads, "In addition, if during play the umpires decide that the light is unfit, only the batting side shall have the option of continuing play. After agreeing to continue to play in unfit light conditions, the captain of the batting side (or a batsman at the wicket) may appeal against the light to the umpires, who shall uphold the appeal only if, in their opinion, the light has deteriorated since the agreement to continue was made."



# Crossword

I MUDAR

163



## ACROSS

- 1 Female tennis player ends with a geographical feature (7)
- 5 The maximum number of players that can play tennis at a time (4)
- 6 Wimbledon's first winner (4)
- 9 The other Hadlee (5)
- 11 The most controversial of the cricketing zones? (5)
- 12 On Top Down— a book by Hay Robinson (5)
- 13 The editor of this magazine and this former hockey player for India have something somewhere to share (5)
- 16 The swing bowler's main weapon (4)
- 17 What a tournament is labelled when it is held for pros and amateurs alike (4)
- 18 This footballing Trevor who is cricket crazy (7)

## DOWN

- 2 A type of a tennis court (4)
- 3 A Pakistani leg spinner, sometime captain and now manager affectionately called? (4)
- 3 What a slipsman and a wicket-keeper eagerly waits for (4)
- 5 An important aspect of sports today that comprises part of a Scottish sea monster (7)
- 7 The Test record-holder for the most consecutive hundreds by his first name (7)
- 9 Cricketing trophy fought for between two countries worth playing for? (5)
- 10 Racing champion, Niki (5)
- 13 This E'ahi, played for both, India and Pakistan in Tests (4)
- 14 A sportsman never hopes to find himself in this sort of a season (4)
- 15 Cricketer of great consistency for India has an egoistic ending (4)

# Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

Mitin Sapre, Pune

Q What is the Test batting record of David Hookes? How many fifties and hundreds has he scored?

A In 8 Tests and 15 innings, Hookes made 433 runs at an average of 28.66 with the help of three fifties

Gyanaranjan Mohapatra, Bhubaneswar

Q Has Gavaskar taken any Test wicket? If he has, whose wicket was that?

A Yes that of Zaheer Abbas of Pakistan at Faisalabad in 1978-79

Rana Sen, Patna

Q What is the Test record of Peter Richardson?

A In 34 Tests and 56 innings, he was once not out, scored 2,061 runs, with 126 as his highest score, 37.47 average, five centuries and nine half centuries

Brendra Pal, Midnapur

Q What does 'P S' in C P S Chauhan stand for?

A Pratap Singh

S V Dutta, Madras

Q What is the Test batting record of Geoff Boycott?

A He has played 104 Tests, 185 innings, 22 times not out, 7,802 runs, 246 runs as his highest score, average 47.86, 21 centuries, 40 half centuries, 10 zeroes and 30 catches

A V Ramel, Vishakhapatnam

Q What is the highest score made by a Test batsman on record and against whom did he score these runs?

A The innings of 365 not out by Sir Garfield Sobers of West Indies who made it against Pakistan at Kingston in 1957-58

G V Giri, Dhanbad

Q What is the Test record of C Walcott?

A He has played 44 Tests, 74 innings, seven times not out, 3,798 runs, 220 as his highest score, 56.68 average, 15 centuries, 14 half centuries, one zero, 53 catches and 11 stumpings

## SOLUTION 162

D A N I  
O N

R N H  
H O G G G Y A T S

M. T. Sharanappa, Davangere; D. K. Davarsh, Dharegarh.

Q What is the Test batting record of M A K Pataudi?

A He has played 46 Tests, 83 innings, three not out innings, 2,793 runs, 203 not out as his highest score, 34.91 average, six centuries, 16 half centuries, seven zeroes and has captained in 40 Tests

Thomas Manuel and Harhey Daniel, Trivandrum

Q Who is the youngest Indian to make his Test debut?

A Vijay Mehra who played his first Test against New Zealand at Bombay in 1955-56 at the age of 17 years and 265 days

Tusher and Harish, Coimbatore.

Q Which bowler has taken most wickets in an over?

A M J C Allom, K Cranston, F J Titmus and C M Old, all from England, have captured a maximum of four wickets in an over

K Radarabinda, Orissa.

Q How many times have Lance Gibbs and Clame Grimmer claimed 10 wickets or more in a Test match?

A Lance Gibbs twice and Clame Grimmer seven times

Ajay Kumar Agarwal, Calcutta.

Q How many Tests centuries have been made by B P Patel?

A Only one—115 not out versus West Indies at Port-of-Spain in 1975-76

## Quiz

### QUESTIONS

The following Olympic gold medalists achieved the distinction in the year noted against their names. Identify their events and the States they represented

- 1 Daniel Morelon (1968, 1972).
- 2 Pascual Perez (1948);
- 3 Nina Romashkova (1952);
- 4 Mary E. Peters (1952);
- 5 Lee Q Calhoun (1956, 1960);
- 6 Sawao Kato (1968, 1972);
- 7 Samuel Lee (1948, 1952);
- 8 Laszlo Papp (1948, 1952 and 1956);
- 9 Ralph H Boston (1960);
- 10 Jozef Schmidt (1964, 1968)

### ANSWERS

- 1 Cycling 1,000m sprint; France
- 2 Boxing Flyweight; Argentina
- 3 Women's discus throw; USSR
- 4 Women's pentathlon; Great Britain
- 5 110 metres hurdles; USA
- 6 Gymnastics Combined exercises (Individual); Japan
- 7 Diving Platform; USA
- 8 Boxing Middleweight (1948) and Light-middleweight (1952) and (1956); Hungary
- 9 Broad jump; USA
- 10 Triple jump; Poland

Excellent: 20-18, Good: 17-15, Fair: 14-13

**A** He has played 44 Tests, 61 innings, seven times not out 1 328 runs, 80 as his highest score 24 59 average five half centuries, two-zeroes, 11,587 balls bowled 432 maiden overs, yielded

**Q** What is the highest score made by Mike Procter and Basil D Oliveira ?

**Q** What is Dilip Doshi's date of birth ?  
**A** His date of birth is 22 December, 1947

East's 2 NT showed length in the unbid suits and, hearing that diamonds were well held on my right, I settled for a small slam. East upset my calculations by sacrificing in six spades but at least this gave me the chance to show reserve values by

**This week's quiz.** At love all you hold ♠7643, ♥Q75, ♦Q832, ♣A4. Your partner deals and opens one spade, you respond two spades and partner tries with three clubs. What should you bid?

You may have got the impression from two games featured recently (Miles - Korchnoi, Wyk aan Zee, 1978 and Keres - Smyslov, Zurich, 1963) that the Queen's Indian Defence solves all Black's problems when he is allowed to play it. To show that that is not quite the case, and to restore the balance for the white pieces, here is a dramatic encounter from the Philips & Drew Kings Tournament in April. The two grandmasters involved were disappointed with their final scores of 7/13 Timman started badly and Portsch finished badly, and this game clearly reflects the tide of their fortunes. The Hungarian let the Dutchman be him in knots and make the opening pawn sacrifice look very dangerous indeed.

White: Jan Timman; Black: Lejos Portsch. Queen's Pawn, Queen's Indian Defence (London, 1982)

1 P-Q4, N-KB3; 2 P-B4, P-K3  
3 B-N3, P-B3; 4 P-B3, P-B3



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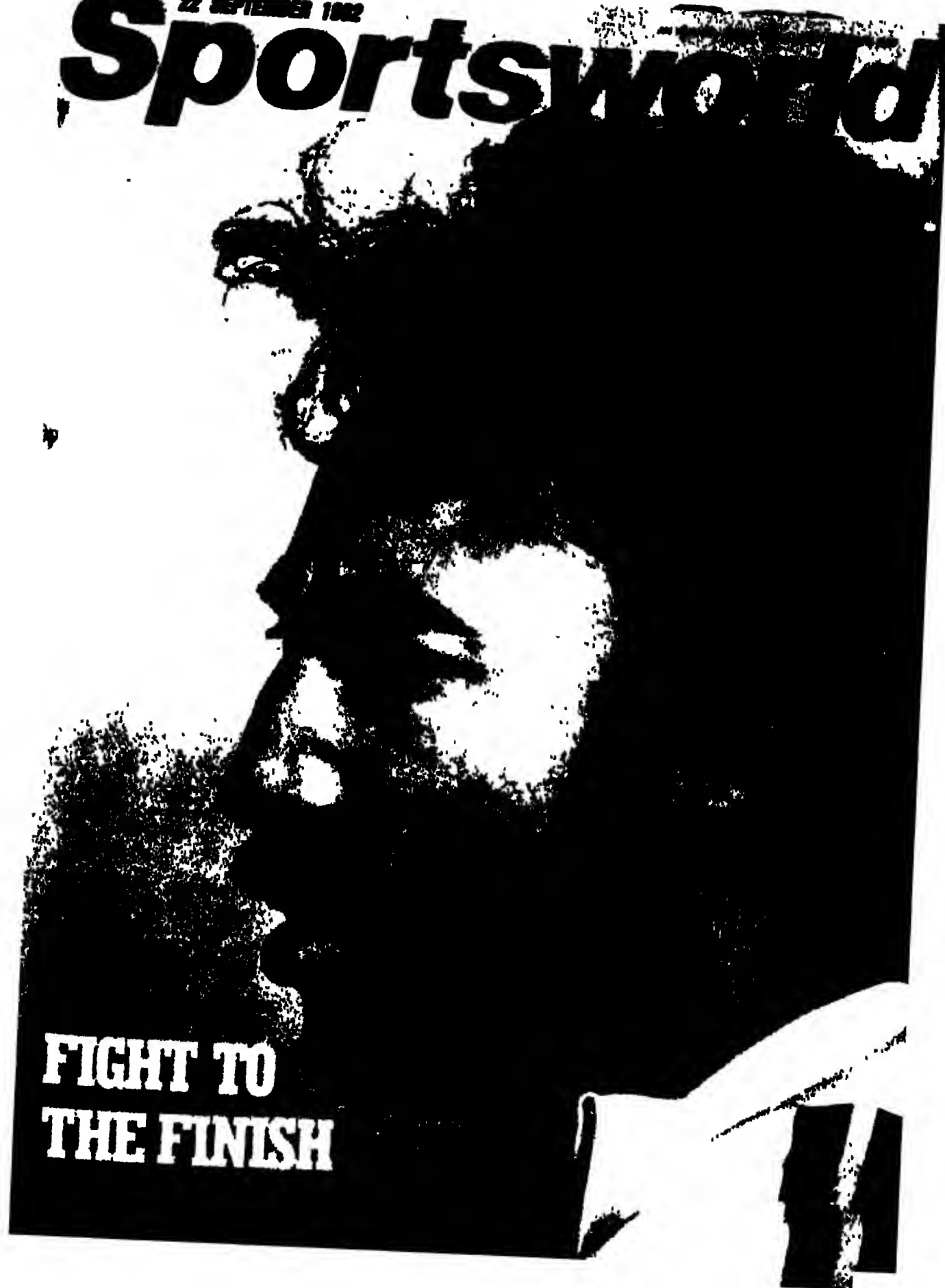
G G A



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The series between England and Pakistan produced much tension and excitement and though England won A CORRESPONDENT feels that Pakistan were the stronger side



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Cover transparency of Mudassar Nazar by Patrick Eagar

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Editorial Staff Subhash Sarcar  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Uncharitable

THE Grand Old Man of Indian cricket has been rather uncharitable to the later generation of cricketers in drawing up his best-ever Indian eleven. The reasons for the non-inclusion of even one of the famed spin-trio are hollow and ought not to convince a cricket buff.

Vishy has been branded as inconsistent and meek. Vijay Hazare is best remembered as a grafter in the Tavate mould who did not know what to do with a long hop. Vishy, on the other hand, has contributed to almost all of India's recent victories. There is, in fact, a popular belief that whenever Vishy has done well India has steered well clear of a defeat.

The choice of Hindlekar, too, is a case in point. He certainly does not merit inclusion on the basis of his showing in just one overseas tour (1946). Both Engineer and Kirmani have stood up to a larger variety of bowlers and have been able to 'read' Chandra, which is a feat by itself.

C. K. Navudu, too, was never exposed to serious Test cricket. If batting at number five is associated with frolics like heaving and clouting then Durrani and Patil were not bad either to justify inclusion. Prof. Deodhar has certainly let nostalgia get the better of him. Was 'C. K.' a giant in terms of inches, about or talent as well?

Amir Elahi struck a note as discordant as did Navak in the last series. Without letting Prof. Deodhar's unbecoming dislike for Bedi come into this, we can safely say that Dilip Doshi is a better bet than Elahi, notwithstanding the latter's googlies. Besides, no international team of stature has had to rely on its last man to supplement the batting with such a prolific line-up in the front. However, with Hindlekar at number three the pressure is likely to be on Elahi.

The living legend's prejudice comes across most conspicuously when he claims that "fielding standards have deteriorated over the years." Frankly, the concept of professional fielding over the years was brought home by Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi who was bred in the highly competitive atmosphere of England's County cricket. Indian captains before him did not think twice about conceding 80 or 100 runs inside an hour—even Prof. Deodhar corroborates this!

Throughout the interview with Mr. Munwani the nonagenarian pines for the years gone by in a bout of melodramatic nostalgia without ever attempting to be objective. His obsession with 'his days' is understandable but not forgivable.

CHIRANJIT BANERJEE,  
Calcutta

THE interview conducted by your correspondent with Prof. Deodhar reveals certain shocking information about Vishwanath which is very regrettable. The way the veteran underestimated the abilities of the current batsman was something unwanted. The manner in which Vishy counter-attacked the bowling of Roberts and Company at Madras in 1974 is in itself a testimony to his guts.

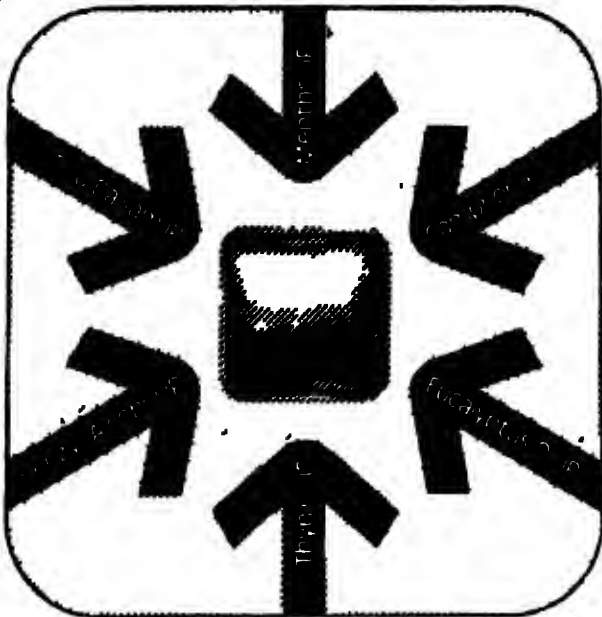
S. VENKATA KUMAR,  
Tirupati

### Right man for the job

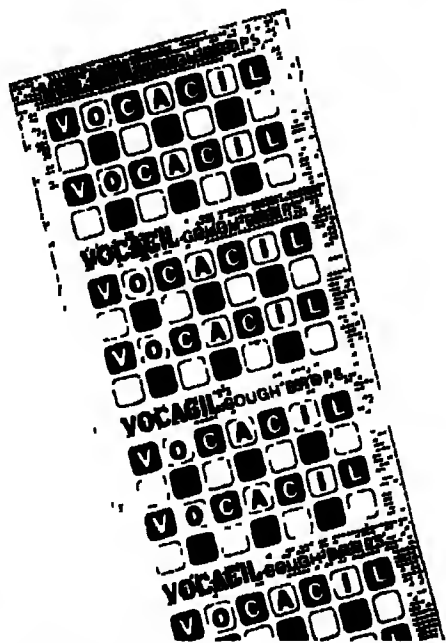
THIS refers to the article "Will Botham come back as England's captain?" published in the *Sportsworld* of 25 August, 1982.

I do not think that it was right to rack one's head unnecessarily when the right man for the job of captaining England is already there. As far as the question of Botham coming back in future goes, let me say that it is a controversial question.

## Six ways of soothing a sore throat.



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ULKA VOC-12

Even then I cannot see the job going his way when he has already failed once at it before. Moreover, most of the captains that have led their countries have either been batsmen or bowlers and only a few cricketers have been all-rounders. How can one do the bowling, batting and the fielding and top it all with the captaincy? It is not only a tough task but nigh impossible.

**SANJEEV MITTA,**  
Calcutta

## Best Indian football team

I FEEL that the best ever Indian football team should be something like this: Bhagarat, Sudhin Kamakar, Arun Ghosh, Jarnail Singh, Saiten Manu, Pradip Banerjee (captain), Mewalal, Sattai Chinn, Goswami, Nayal and Venkatesh Reserves: Tarun Bose, Gusto Pal, Dharmaj and Muhammed Habib.

**ANIRUDHA CHAKRA**  
Varanasi  
Bhala

## Ridiculous

THE article in opener's The India by Parthab Ramchand in the 11 August issue was quite ridiculous. He virtually pleaded the case for Srikanth who I agree is a fair batsman. But Mr. Ramchand seems to have forgotten that despite being an unorthodox batsman he was selected and he failed. In six innings he scored 119 runs—not an adequate performance to retain his place.

About Roy and Parkar, Mr. Ramchand opined that they would be a 'bad investment' for the future. How dare he say so? He says that Srikanth is a new Srikanth now. My point is that if Srikanth can change his style and become a better player than why can Parkar and Roy not do the same?

Sorry, Mr. Ramchand, you have not indulged in good journalism. Your phrasing the case in Srikanth's behalf would have been justified if he had scored the runs. Style is a secondary consideration. What the team requires is runs and if this had not been the case then

Chauhan would never have made it into the Indian side.

**SOBHAN KUMAR**  
CHAUDHURY,  
Gauhati

## Malpractices

IN the recently concluded Indian Masters Badminton played at Hyderabad we had the opportunity to witness some malpractices in the conducting of the tournament.

1) The gates of tickets were so high that half of the amount was taken by the organisers for their personal benefit.

2) Of the Rs 10 lakhs spent for staging the Masters nearly four to five lakhs were taken away by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister who is the President of the A.P. Badminton Association.

3) The organisers had clearly stated that complimentary had been strictly prohibited. Yet the Ministers and their families were provided with them.

4) The distribution of prizes was over even before the last match could conclude.

5) It is learnt that the Ministers had asked the Doodarshan cameraman to focus on them so that the public could not know that they had come to watch the tournament.

6) M. J. Jaisimha, the cricketer, was invited to give the commentary.

**M. KRISHNA KUMAR**  
Secunderabad

## Congratulations

PRADEEP, convey my heartfelt congratulations to him for winning the Senior Division League title after a lapse of 100 years.

**ABHINAV KUMAR,**  
Muzaffarpur

## Final say

I THINK that the normal reaction of every Indian batsman to the new lbw rule introduced on experimental lines this season will be "My foot!"

**RAKESH SHARMA,**  
Delhi

# ASIAD VENUES

**TALKATORA GARDENS**, which once used to be synonymous with Delhi's football, will be the venue for the swimming events during the Ninth Asian Games.

The swimming pool complex, whose construction has been entrusted to the New Delhi Municipal Committee, will be the first of its kind in India. It is located in 12.13 acres of land bordering the Talkatora Gardens and adjacent to the Willingdon Crescent overlooking the President's Estate. Originally the cost of the complex was estimated at Rs 9.25 crores when a roof had been envisaged for the main structure and the arena portion as well as the covered area, were to be air-conditioned.

However, the roof has been omitted for the Asian Games and the air-conditioning of the portion has also to be dispensed with. The expenditure of the complex, as envisaged now, is of the order of Rs 8.5 crores.

There was a lot of controversy whether to have a roof or not. There had been some doubts about

the design of the roof. The British expert Prof. M. S. Makowsky, who visited India to inspect the design, to have disapproved with the design. He was of the view that such mammoth projects of roofing the indoor-pool had been undertaken without adequate planning. Finally, it was agreed to go in for an 'open air' pool. One senior official of the Special Organising Committee is on the record "that the structural defects in the design had not been corrected there could have been a disaster".

Due to the omission of the roof certain additional works had to be proposed to give the top portion of the structure a look of completion. Due to the additional heat load caused by having the swimming pool and the diving pool open, the heating system originally proposed, had to be enlarged considerably.

There will be three pools: the Warming-up Pool of 50m x 11m x 2m, the Main Pool 50m x 26m x 2m and the Diving Pool (25m x 25m x 5m).

The main structure is

elliptical in plan. The major axis of the ellipse is 120 metres and the minor axis is 102 metres. There are separate entrances conveniently located. The eastern side ramp can be used by disabled persons coming in wheel chairs. The landscaping work with proper turfing and planning of selected shrubbery has been planned by an expert landscape artist. The complex can be divided into five main parts—the Main Arena, Eastern and Western Stands, Competitors' Annexe, Restaurant Block and Landscaping.

The arena consists of the competitors' pool and diving pool. The warm-up pool, also called practice pool, is situated below the western stands. There will be an electronic timer at the northern end of the arena during the games.

The diving column, situated on the southern side of the diving pool, has spring boards and diving platforms at different levels, the highest being at 10.00 metres above the water level. In order to facilitate quick conduct of the diving

events and also to save effort on the part of the diver, a small lift will also be provided connecting each of the levels at which spring boards and diving platforms are located. The water in all the three pools would be re-circulated through pressure filters in order to keep the water clean. For this purpose, pressure filters along with the chemical dosing equipment are located below the eastern stands. The temperature of the water in competitors' pool and warm-up pool would be at 25 degree C and the temperature of the water in the diving pool would be at 27 degree C. To maintain these temperatures, a heating system has been provided which includes boilers and heat exchanges.

The spectators' gallery has a capacity of 7,000.

In the competitors' annexe there are change rooms, showers, towel rooms, toilets etc. The location of the annexe is so adjusted that the participants as they arrive, can quickly change, take a shower and proceed to the warm-up pool quite close.

**DUNLOP**  
**TYRES**  
*lead the way*



# The Sporting Life

Ben Templeton and Tom Forman

## WATCH IT!

**Haiti** As part of the Family Planning For All by 2000 A.D. campaign, the Haitian Government organised a football match between two teams called The Pill and The Cap. The match was played in Ravine Pintade, one of the most densely populated areas of Port au Prince. Goals were shot, but did the message shoot home?

## SPORTING SOLUTION?

**Taiwan.** Soccer star Pele had an original solution to offer to end wars between nations everywhere. According to him, disputes between nations should be settled on the soccer pitches during the World Cup every year. Whoever won, should get the area under dispute as a prize! And then naturally, players like Pele would be in great demand with the Gulf States perennial winners.

## BOWLED OVER

**London.** In his heyday, Freddie Trueman was a formidable bowler and was consequently known as 'Fiery Fred'. In a certain match, a young opening batsman was clean bowled by Trueman before he had even scored. "A very good ball," Mr Trueman, said the batsman sportingly, as he made his way back to the pavilion. "Aye lad," said Fred sorrowfully, "and it was wasted on thee!"

## JOLLY GODDI

**Newbury.** Stephanie Jolly and Ewen Murray are suited "to a tee." They are both professional golfers on course for a love match. They are to marry soon, three years after first meeting on a plane while he was dashing off to a match. When she isn't playing, she watches him. "At least I'll never be a golf widow!" said Jolly.

## BERNIE TELLIS



"... SO, AFTER CHECKING OUT THE PRICE OF GAS ... "



"TO HELL WITH THE PROFIT FORECAST FOR THE LAST QUARTER... WHO'S GONNA GET THE COMPANY TICKETS FOR THE OILER-COWBOY GAME!?"



"I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR FIGHTER'S RECORD... HOW ARE HIS TV RATINGS?"



# ALL IN THE GAME

## MOSCOW AT WIMBLE- DON?

*Soviet tennis makes strides*

The Soviet Union produced Alex Metreveli, but sadly he has not found one thus far to emulate him. Why? This? A leading magazine in Moscow laments that the sorry state of tennis was due to the decline of courts, and acute shortage of balls combined with the fact that the indigenous racquets were fragile.

The Russians are a formidable squad in the Olympics. Now that tennis is going to be in the list of events, the Soviet Union should take a warning that she will have to get it up to make an attempt at the Olympic tennis golds.

What then is the position of Russian tennis in the World? Strange, though it might seem, no Soviet player has been involved in top international tournaments since 1977. In view of the 1988 Olympics, no one can guarantee that the Soviets will display brilliance in tennis because the players have to be trained from the age of ten. The Soviet tennis authorities will have to take urgent measures to foster the game right away.

## RENDER UNTO CESAR

*Couch problems*

Prior to the World Cup, everything Cesar Menotti demanded was readily granted by the Argentine Football Association for just one reason: Argentina had to retain the World Cup at Madrid. But Menotti had a valid reason for being criticised for not succeeding. At the same time he has taken

the blame all on himself.

Now the question is: Has Menotti been sacked? No. Because the contract as national coach terminates in December. But many annoyed officials feel that he should be replaced immediately in view of the fact that Argentina will have to perform wonders in the South American Junior Championship. This tournament determines the top two for the Junior World Cup scheduled next year.

While the Argentina FA is still toying with the idea, Brazil, who were the hot favourites with the bookies in Spain, have asked national team coach Tele Santana to stay on. This was a request from the Brazilian FA president Gilberto Coutinho. For Santana it must have been embarrassing because in his profession coming second is not good enough in his country. After Brazil's elimination in Madrid, Santana's family members were threatened and had to seek police protection.

Then again, after the sorry debacle in the land of the matadors, the players had to experience the humiliation of being offered less by their own clubs than they got prior to the World Cup.

## BABY BRINGS STRANGE LUCK

*A bath brings a win*

Bengal professional golfer and running out of luck in all one's attempts since 1980 can be really frustrating and exasperating too. Pam Curtis Strange? How long was he to wait for the much needed break?

At Grand Blanc (Michigan), Strange had a stint at the \$180,000 Buick Open Golf Championship. Not



winning for so long, he seemed a stranger among the contenders. But Strange proved to be no stranger when he captured the fat purse. He said later on, "I drove the ball 200 per cent better and I'm certainly well enough to win again. Besides, it would be a nice present for my wife Sarah."

Later brought the smile back on his once again as he took the first place. He presented his wife with the prize money but Sarah proved that she would return the favour. Back home in Kingsmill (Virginia) Sarah was waiting with their first born baby. Strange after all can look forward to better days — and more luck with his son.

## STARING PROBLEMS

*All in the swim together*

Dame Fortune was stern on Ricky Burrell, the only English swimmer to break a record in the 100m freestyle at the Optrex sponsored national swimming meet. Having achieved the feat in 51.74 seconds in the heats, Burrell was shocked. In the final, leave alone keeping to the record time, he was beaten hands down by Zimbabwe-born David Lowe. The Southampton man lost by 7/100th of a second.

One question was whether Burrell could have won the race had there not been two false starts. For a top contender

like him this could have an adverse affect. The first false start was a mass one and the second time it was Burrell alone. A third false start naturally would have disqualified him. Burrell heard the shot but he never got to terms with the race.

## BENEFITS FOR MALIS

*A step in the right direction*

A recently new venture is in the offing shortly a benefit match for a mahi who has rendered yeoman service for decades. This feat will surely go down in the history of the club Shankar Pillai of East Bengal. He was a witness to many battles royal on the Maidan and outside Calcutta. Still going strong, Shankar mahi is considered by football veterans and the present lot as the de facto guardian who always shared their joys and sorrows alike.

Mahis on the Maidan are plagued by financial problems and ailments. It is due to sympathetic officials and players that they derive benefit, although these are minimal. And the plan to give Shankar a benefit match is definitely a step in the right direction. A humanitarian cause like this was hinted at by former East Bengal skipper Parnal Dev at a function. But Sukumar Samagmati who recommended this enlightened venture said, "Why have one only for Shankar? We should come forward to have benefit matches for the old mahis on the Maidan. What a dreadful idea they lead after retirement. It is our duty to help them." Sudhu Karmakar, Chinmoy Chatterjee, Surajit Sengupta, Mohammed Sporting coach Syed Naveemuddin and others were present who also expressed their love for Shankar mahi.

# COMING BACK IN 1981—AT LAST

**CHRIS EVERT LLOYD** tells how she trounced Hana Mandlikova in the 1981 Wimbledon final to recapture her crown. These excerpts are from the book "Chrissie" by Evert and Neil Amdur, published by Methuen.

**"WHO is that?"** Hana Mandlikova asked, staring at a picture on the wall "Maureen Connolly," I said "Haven't you ever heard of her?" "No," Hana replied.

At nineteen years old, Hana Mandlikova was too young to appreciate Maureen Connolly's three Wimbledon singles titles in 1952, 1953 and 1954. But any student of tennis knows that "Little Mo," as she was called, ranks among the greatest women players of all time. Sitting with Hana in the players' waiting room before our 1981 Wimbledon singles final, I couldn't help but wonder whether any of today's young pros could develop an attachment or appreciation for the achievements of players in the past. The game dances to a different beat these days.

As someone who had won two Wimbledons and was runner-up four other times, the half-dozen pictures on the pale blue walls of the players' waiting room were significant to me, especially the photo of Virginia Wade with Queen Elizabeth at the 1977 centennial celebration. Virginia had beaten me in the semi-finals that year before going on to win the final against Betty Stove.

The players' waiting room at Wimbledon sounds lavish, but, in fact, it has a chilly, impersonal atmosphere and is no more than ten by twelve feet. Players are brought to the room before going onto the Centre Court or Number One court for a match. It's doubtful if more than four players can sit in the room without feeling cramped. Four green velvet chairs and a hard green couch are remnants of other eras. Peter Morgan, who traditionally escorts players to the room, says blankets are stored there for cold or snowy days. There is also a notice of another Wimbledon trademark: "clothing which displays any form of advertisement (other than one manufacturer's small logo) is not permitted to be worn on the courts. Players are also reminded that all

clothing must be predominantly white."

The committee gave Martina some flak about some of her multi-coloured outfits during the 1981 tournament. But the rules are more lenient now than they were when I first played "The Championships" in 1972.

Losing three consecutive Wimbledon finals made me more committed than ever in 1981. Sitting with Hana, who had beaten me in the French Open semis the previous month, only put circumstances in a clearer perspective. When things go right at a tournament, it can work to your advantage in many ways; you feel positive, on top of things, as if no shot or match is too difficult. In Paris, I was more concerned with how my opponents were playing than preparing myself, and allowed other distractions to unsettle me.

My dad had to cancel his planned trip to Paris because of his high blood pressure. John was involved with a tournament in England, playing well, and also unable to be with me, so I invited my sister Clare, but the tournament came during her eighth-grade graduation.

"Would you rather go to graduation or come to Paris?" I asked Clare. "I think about it and call you back in two days," she said.

"Forget it," I replied, figuring Clare would be jumping and ready to grab the first flight. "You know, the men are playing here, too."

There was a long pause on the line. "Oh, really. Is John McEnroe playing?" Clare asked.

I knew what was rummaging around Clare's mind. She had a huge first crush on John McEnroe, adored him and thought he was a cute. During an Avon tournament earlier in the year at Boston, I saw John, told him about Clare's crush and asked if he could send her some pictures. One week later, two giant coloured pictures autographed by John arrived at the house. One of the

pictures read, "Dear Clare, I feel the same way about you as you feel about me. Love, John." I was pleasantly surprised. John was busy, travelling all over the world, yet was considerate enough to take the time and make certain that the pictures were sent to a thirteen-year-old girl. Again, it was a side of John that the public would never see.

When Clare heard that John was in the French Open, Paris seemed much more interesting than eighth-grade graduation. Unfortunately, her presence couldn't stop a succession of room changes for me at the Hilton Hotel, after Saudi Arabian royalty moved into the next suite with an entourage of birds, animals and people.

I didn't see any camels, but the birds began chirping about 6.30 every morning on an outside balcony. Wanting as much sleep as possible, I complained to the manager. He informed me that the birds and animals belonged to the brother of the King of Saudi Arabia, and there was no way he could change his room.

"You are not the only player to complain," the manager said. "John Borg has been having problems too because there is another king in the hotel, and the king has had belly dancers in his room every night. The room is directly over Mister Borg's."

The French Open is a well-run tournament, even if it is not as familiar to Americans as Wimbledon. On the second Tuesday the International Tennis Federation has its annual championship dinner. John was still in England, so I went to the dinner with my mother, Clare and Susan Mascarin, a promising young American player from Grosse Pointe, Michigan. I didn't leave after the first dance this time. In fact, I sent one of my playful 'love notes' to an old friend, Ilie Nastase, during the dinner. "Dear Nasty," I wrote, "I don't have a date tonight. Since you have one, can Bambino be mine?" Bambino is Nasty's well-known, 200-pound, Italian-born bodyguard. And

Bellucci, who looks more like a menacing character from a James Bond Novel than a popular regular on the tennis circuit

Minutes later, a note arrived at the head of the table. 'Bambino says he will be right over.' Sure enough, the dancing started. Bambino came over, took my hand, kissed it and said 'Would you like to dance?' I got up, we walked onto the floor and about ten photographers quickly hustled into position for pictures. That sure was a first for them—and me.

Bjorn Borg and I were honoured as the federation's champions for the year. Photographers asked us to pose for pictures, and while we were standing there, jokingly I said to Bjorn, 'Are you going to take off three or four months like I did last year?'

'I think I should take a year off,' Bjorn said in a half-kidding tone. Right then, I could tell that Bjorn was thinking about a layoff. I had followed his success closely because many people, especially Ingrid Benzer, had always suggested that our

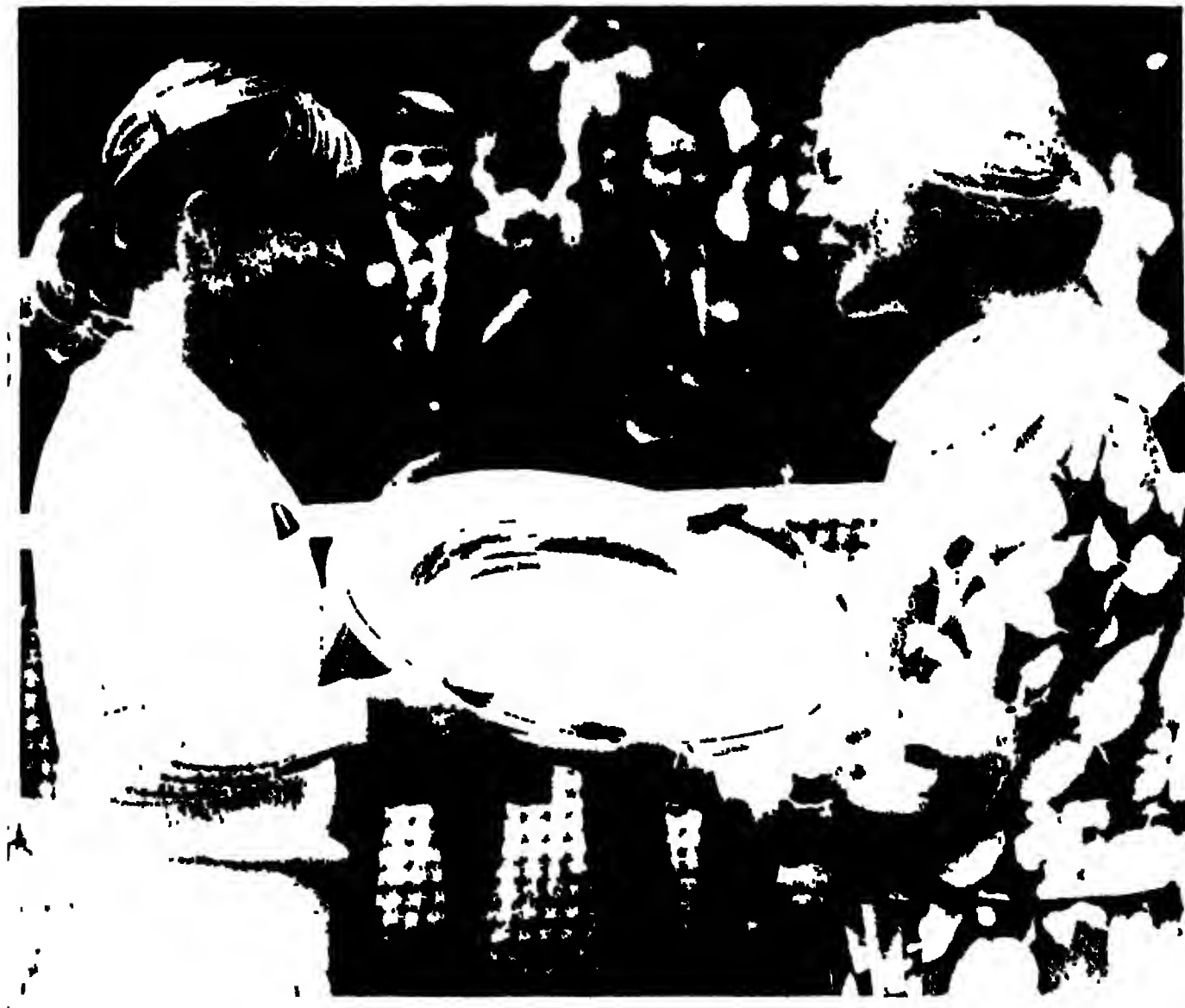
careers paralleled each other. I wondered after five consecutive Wimbledon titles whether Bjorn could sustain his motivation and goals. After a while, if you're a human being and not a machine, the pressure has to settle in. When Bjorn announced later in the year that he would be taking a five-month break totally free from tennis, I recalled our conversation and was not surprised. Bjorn won a sixth French Open title despite the belly dancers and his doubts. But my bid to preserve an unbeaten record for the year and win a fifth French championship were stopped by Hana, who handled Sylvia Hanika of West Germany in the final.

You develop certain feelings about players in certain tournaments. At the 1981 U.S. Open, for example, John and I weren't worried about Hana or Tracy as much as Martina and Martina played great against me. In the French, Hana was playing very well. I watched one or two of her matches; she seemed eager to practise and was in a good mood. The morning of our match, I was tense,

nervous, inhibited and felt like she was going to dominate. At times, Hana reminded me of some of my earlier matches with Evonne; I found myself watching her hit the ball. She was steadier, but winners served well, played an almost perfect match and won, 7-5, 6-4. The reason I lost was not because of my own indecisiveness; Hana simply played too well that day.

Before we walked on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Fred Hawley, the tournament referee, stopped by the waiting room and wished us luck. I wondered whether Hana had given any deep thought to this match. I attach a great deal to mental preparation before a final, and Wimbledon demands even more understanding. Hana seemed filled with energy, perhaps because it was her first Wimbledon final and her parents had flown in from Czechoslovakia. But she looked like someone who was thinking, 'well, I'm going to go out, and if I play well, great; if I don't, well, okay.' The look of determination that I saw in Paris was missing.

The omens were with me at Wim-



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ledon Having lost to Hana in Paris, there was no pressure of carrying a perfect record into Wimbledon I also withdrew from a grass-court tournament in Surbiton, England, because of a strained tendon attached to the ribia, and the withdrawal became a blessing in disguise I rested and then practised for about ten days with John, Dennis Ralston, Roscoe Tanner, John, Sadri and Pat Dupre I spent four hours a day working out—playing 2 on 1 drills with John and Pat, playing sets with Dennis—and went into Wimbledon eager Mima Jausovec's upset of Andrea Jaeger eliminated Andrea as a possible quarter final opponent Then Pam Shriver beat Tracy for the first time in the quarters, I respected Pam's serve and volley game on grass, but Tracy would have been a more difficult opponent in the semis As it turned out, Pam played our semi with a slight groin pull that inhibited much of her net game

Anyone who doesn't believe that flaws and destiny can influence the outcome of a tournament isn't realistic At the 1981 US Open, Tracy had only one strenuous match en route to the title—the three set final against Martina Her lower half of the draw went wide open when Andrea, nursing a torn rotator cuff in her right shoulder lost to Andrea Leand, an amateur in three sets The upper half had Martina, Hana and myself, I beat Hana in the quarters, lost a close three setter to Martina in the semis and then Martina, after taking the first set easily from Tracy, lost the next two in tie breakers Beating me was Martina's match of the tournament instead of another step, just as Hana left some of her best finishing shots at Wimbledon in the semi final against Martina

It our 6-2, 6-2 score lacked any drama, I was excited at having won a third title I wish Hana had played great, there was no way I wasn't going to win I had worked for six months Wimbledon was my goal, and I knew that when I put in that much time and emotion, I could win it After the match, I didn't want the awards ceremony to end, I just wanted to stand on the Centre Court hold up the Challenge Trophy, and enjoy 'Just feel this, enjoy it, don't think about the Press conference or anything else,' I told myself

**H**EARING the crowd clapping at Wimbledon makes you want to hold the platter even higher It's the greatest feeling, you've won it, you're showing people your trophy, you're proud of the moment, you're the best tennis player in the world and everybody would like to be in your shoes For me, a disappointed runner-up for the last three years, holding up the trophy in front of my husband, family and friends and seeing their joy, meant even more In seven matches, I had lost only twenty six games, the first players since



Mr and Mrs John Lloyd

Billie Jean in 1967 to win Wimbledon without dropping a set

The presence of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, along with Lady Diana Spencer, made the victory even more satisfying After the ceremony, I asked Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian K Burnett (that's his official title), the chairman of the club if John and I could meet Lady Diana, who was to marry Prince Charles later in the month

'I'll see what I can do' Sir Brian said Following my Press conference, he told me that Lady Diana was having tea and would love to meet us in the members' enclosure

I was not dressed to meet royalty In the excitement of the match, ceremony and the anticipation of going to the members' enclosure, I wore only a yellow warm up suit John and

I waited in the bar area adjacent to the members' enclosure and John tried to explain some of the royal protocol that went with such events For example, he said if a waiter offered the Duke or Duchess biscuits or pastries, none of the other people sitting with them would eat or accept food until they took their portions

'Why doesn't Lady Diana come over and meet us?' I asked, noticing that she was finished with her tea 'She can't', John said 'She got to wait for the Duke and Duchess first They must leave first

The Duke and Duchess of Kent are wonderful tennis fans You can always find them in the Royal Box during Wimbledon, and they have become as synonymous with tennis as Queen Elizabeth is identified with horse racing

# Pulling 'short legs' over 'silly points'

**Ted Dexter produces his formula to make a spinner's life more bearable**

**W**HEN cricket was the only summer sport for gentlemen, the myth grew up that the same was, by definition, genteel. In fact, it was never any such thing. Those same 'gentle men' were brought up to take knocks in the hunting field and were not inclined to flinch at a hard ball on a lumpy pitch with little or no body protection. Since then society has moved a long way towards a softer lifestyle. The dentist and the surgeon do their work without inflicting pain. The motor car takes the physical effort out of cross-country travel, and a variety of pills and supports are advertised to relieve any other form of discomfort.

Cricketers are not immune from modern trends and the steady increase of 'comforters' is leading remorselessly to full suits of armour being worn at every turn. Nowhere is such padding and protection so obviously needed as in the 'suicidal' close fielder positions. Sunil Gavaskar might reasonably have escaped the misfortune of a broken leg had he been wearing adequate shing guards. David Gower could have saved himself from stitches over his cheekbone and the after effects of a nasty black eye by the simple expedient of donning a helmet—something which he has already said he will not overlook next time.

Both these injuries of considerable severity were suffered in the silly point position which is increasingly favoured by captains, as much to distract the batsman as to take the occasional bat-pad catch. Ian Botham actually admitted during a mid Test TV broadcast at Edgbaston that this was part and parcel of the strategy.

These celebrated cases involved Test players and therefore hit the headlines, but injuries are now being suffered daily around the counties and are leading to some even worse developments. I am reliably informed that the ex-Yorkshire captain Chris Old tagged himself out with abdominal protector and shin pads for the close fielding position and saw no particular reason to discard them while he bowled. Reports are also coming through of fielders using 'bat' padding up the shins, knee or 'box', chest protector and

helmet. 'Get past that lot' may well be the adage of the 1980s as padded fieldmen form a kind of wall around the bat.

Two questions arise. The first is whether legislation should be brought in against the trend by limiting the amount of armour or by insisting on a reasonable distance between batsman and fielder. The other is to consider whether this new 'pressure' play actually works, and the latter point is the one that I find the more intriguing.

I have now watched a variety of spinners operating to this novel field placing. The distinct impression is that the effect on them is little short of disastrous. My disenchantment with the system started as long ago as 1975 when Tony Greig captained a newcomer to Test cricket, the then very promising Philippe Edmonds. The Middlesex left-armer had enjoyed a great success against the Australians on his debut at Headingley taking 5 for 28. But these figures were achieved on a turning pitch and critics sensibly waited for him to bowl on a 'proper' Test pitch before committing themselves.

The opportunity was not long in coming because the next Test was at The Oval and Greig soon called up his newly acquired member of the attack.

To my amazement and dismay the England captain immediately posted himself close in on the off side without even giving Edmonds the chance of an over or two to find his length and settle down. The predictable effect was to see a young bowler plugging the ball in flat at the leg stump without spin or any kind of flight or variety.

Now here we are in 1982, with the unfortunate Edmonds still unable to command a regular place in the England team and still striving unsuccessfully to regain the skills which were so apparent in his university days. People will rightly say that bowling defensively in limited overs cricket exacts the same penalty but that is another story.

Now a new spinner, Eddie Hemmings, has been given his chance in the big time, with a reputation for being able to 'loop' the ball and to

show some of the old-fashioned virtues of variety.

It was hardly a promising start for Hemmings to begin his international career in the Prudential matches, although he certainly sailed through with flying colours. What brought a shudder of apprehension was the now obligatory field placing which greeted his first efforts in a Test match.

I defy any slow bowler to develop his full range of skills where the slightest slip of the fingers could result in serious injury to one of his teammates. To toss the ball high, *with spin*, is a delicate balancing act which needs perfect timing, co-ordination, confidence and no little faith. The slightest interference with this truly magical process will ruin the result, and I believe that the crowding fielders are doing just that.

The other point which is more a matter of fact than opinion is the absence of evidence to suggest that slow bowlers have profited since the new 'pressure' men have been posted.

Edmonds, Emburey, Miller and Hemmings have all had their moments. Indeed for all the catches that have gone begging because the fielders are too close, some victims have duly fallen to the trap, but overall their returns have been disappointing.

I can't remember the last time I saw the batsman beaten in the air, diving upshilly or being 'gated' by playing too soon. The genuine catch at backward short leg from the ball that turns and bounces is a thing of the past because the 'flat' finger spin ball is by definition a 'skid' ball.

I don't remember a recent slip catch either, whether from off-spinner or left armer, which is truly surprising when the usual line is leg stump and angled into the pads.

The last straw came when the much vaunted leg spinner for Pakistan, Abdul Qadir, adopted the same stereotyped field. As luck would have it his only victim from his first 30 overs plus was Tavare, caught at silly point. I repeat, his *only* victim. Critics were inclined to suggest that his figures did less than justice to the way he bowled, but I take a contrary view. Not until he and the other spinners push the fielders back and permit themselves the luxury of greater variety—plus the knowledge that the occasional bad ball need not necessarily cost four runs, or an injury—will the best be seen of them.

As for the question of armour, I favour a total ban for fielders other than wicketkeepers, and a six-yard limitation in front of the wicket. Aesthetically the result would be more pleasing and the day of the genuine slow bowlers may possibly return.

*Courtesy Wisden Cricket Monthly*



# FIGHT TO THE FINISH

The English summer ended on another exciting note with the decider balancing out on the last day of the final Test. There were great performances from both sides and though the result suggested an English victory

A CORRESPONDENT feels that Pakistan were the stronger side

I DOUBT whether even Talbot Baines Reed would have done it. If he had ever approached his publisher with a copy in which a jokey bowler ran away with half a dozen in one innings, yet failed for the Man of the Match award because an unknown blood had scored a 200—that too at Lord's—and that side finished losing the series as the fates tightened on the last day then, doubtless to say, the feller's brains would have been beaten out with the manuscript itself.

But it did happen. And what should be more surprising than that Pakistan lost a rubber they looked like wrapping up much before the curtains were drawn. For Pakistan, sans exaggeration, were the stronger side and the only department in which England rubbed shoulders convincingly was fielding. Pakistan won one Test hands down and lost the other two by a marginal record when the tally should, in all probability, have read 3-0 full stop.

England, quite rightly, are a very tough side to beat when the conditions are more familiar to them and, perhaps, just that much more impossible than, say, beating Australia Down Under. That the Pakistanis won the second Test was ample proof of their versatility and let not detractors get away with a word saying that Willis was not playing then. And in the light of their immense potential David Gower's cheap squealing about the 'greased' ball was quite unbecoming of an England captain. As Imran Khan explained later that almost every Pakistani gives himself and the ball a rub whenever it comes to them between deliveries, this being necessitated more out of habit born in Pakistani conditions. There, the atmosphere being basically dry, it becomes imperative for the ball to remain right through like a touched-up plum. In England, the maintained shine alloyed with the overlying humidity sometimes makes batting, like calculus and advanced statistics, mainly beyond normal comprehension. As John Woodcock himself correctly put the seal on the varnished ball affair: "They have great talent without needing to do that." Quite.

And to cream it all, Pakistan at almost every stage or the other had three or four to hide. In the first Test Sarfraz was out tending his little finger after trying to dam a chunky Lamb on-drive in the Trent Bridge one-dayer. Moreover, Sikandar was still working out his rhythm and probably whining between overs, "What do I have to do to get a wicket?" till as late as the third Test. To plug the momentary chasm they SOS'd in Jalaluddin, who only aggravated the problems by struggling to deliver the stuff Naqqash had by the time of the Lord's Test become a promising prop but he, too, spluttered out midway there and by the time Leeds drew nigh Pakistan were a desperate side.

Qadir, too, one of their main liners, never came across a quickish strip to lend the whip to his leggers, not to say that his effect had worn off. To discount their starving attack even further, Ehteshamuddin, their last and frenzied recruit from Daisy Hill, injured himself, too, in the final Test and all was lost. Imran's swingers, here one moment there the other, succeeded to an extent when everything mattered on the last but one day of the series and Mudassar dropped in his frisbee curlers to the Englishmen's nightmares. England made it—just by three wickets. And Sarfraz and Naqqash cursed in rugged Punjabi....

There is little doubt then that Pakistan were the better side although when it came to, temperamentally, they were just that much lacking. Their panache was clearly marked out as one of the virtues that they failed to bring adequately. The Pakistanis are without doubt the finest set of stroke players in the world but this time they hesitated to alloy it with a certain degree of caution and the ability to graft.

Seeing Zaheer, Miandad and Mohsin larrup away as is elegantly possible summarises the very epitome of stroke making and this they did live up to on occasions. But when the hour required a tougher mettle most of them played indiscriminate shots and fell. At Headingley, Zaheer hit two fours in the first

innings almost on the run, then fled after wooing a delivery from Jackman into Taylor's stuffed gauntlets. The feet were nowhere near the ball and, to top it later in the minutes of Pakistan's heightening gloom, Bari drew designs of lifting Jackman into the stratosphere, made an awful hash of it, bowled in the process. You wondered whether responsibility meant anything. And to a senior!

Another problem that plagued Pakistan was their playing relatively less cricket than the other cricketing countries. This, as Imran Khan cited, was the reason why some of the younger cricketers in the side felt just that bit tense when foisted out onto the Test scene to upset the equilibrium. Quite a few attempted reckless swishes in a sense of misplaced security as a mechanism to stem the adrenalin. With a bit of cloud and subsequent seam to rub it in youngsters played like immature novices at times and the push downhill was jerked.

Much of the problems also reared from where least expected—behind Wasim Bari made a painful picture of it on occasions and sure the expatriate faces at Leeds went wonky when Bari yielded eight byes off Qadir's solitary over on the fourth evening. England docked at 15 when the sun went down and everybody had guessed correctly that the run was going to be tough. And the next day when Pakistan had only four bowlers—one an out-of-form Sikandar—to share it out Bari omitted another 11 to make the English target seem all the more close. Add 19 to 219 with just three wickets remaining and Imran making Mark's look a goon with the bat on the last day and you get what it means to have an over-the-hill wicketkeeper taking charge. In the entire three Tests he left 58 byes, more than what most Pakistani batsmen made for their country! "Well batted, Bari," as you would say.

The general impression after having seen Bari over the tour has been that his days are probably past. He made his debut for Pakistan in 1967 in England itself, the time seems quite ripe for a suitable foot to step



Ooo how did that get away? - Bari winces as a Qadir delivery baffles him as much as it does Botham. Mudassar pursues

in his shoes. His collection on most occasions was sketchy and the quote of his 'keeping to Qadir—since Qadir seems most likely to constitute Pakistan's prong in the coming series against Australia and then India—comes from David Legood a man with an unsuccessful experience past him of keeping to the snaky legger. "I've noticed that even he (Bari) seems to be struggling." And if Bari cannot come up with the equation for Qadir then there could be no time more opportune to infuse fresher zeal into a monopolised department. And if the Pakistani selections do have certain intentions of fishing for a replacement then there could hardly be a better 'keeper in Pakistan than Salim Yousuf who went to England as Bari's deputy. A very agile mover, Yousuf also tends to be a bit on the acrobatic side not that it does

his abilities any disadvantage. And if batting is to be thrown in as a fringe consideration as well then the top brows out there ought to have Ashraf Ali in mind. But then that would be what Evans was to Swetman and ah, another story.

If there was another batsman who failed himself during the tour—let the series lie for a time—then it was Majid Khan. A batsman of immense talent who had been taken as an off spinner and a stumper, he probably had his best years with Glamorgan. Not to, for even a moment, mention that his later years were a blot on abounding virtuosity. He kept pace with consistency for quite sometime but there was talk of his retirement even around when Pakistan jumped the border in 1979-80. And this series told it all. His highest measured up to only 88 and once when plonked

onto the last scene he made a right-ful hack of it. If not his final encore in Tests, then this certainly looks like being his last tour abroad in playing capacity. There were also some whiffs of an unrest in Imran's sentinel over his presence. Rumoured to be at loggerheads with Intikhab Alam, Majid came in many circles for mild criticism which in the light of the recent Pakistani revival the brass will not be eager to entertain. His place, thrown up for grabs, could go to Nasir Valika, untried as yet, as his last season average of 66.50 off 931 runs showed him out as a batsman of no negligible promise.

Another failure was Haqoon Rashid, though understandably Haqoon is a marvellous player and no two minds about that. He had a tremendous debut of 57 against Australia out there in 1976-77 and O'Reilly predicted that if Haqoon did not make his mark within one year as one of the world's best then he was not a true judge of a cricketer. Haqoon never made it but at times he held out the forgotten promise. In his 108 against England in an innings some years ago he hit a Pakistani record of six sixes. Dumps then. Sudden revival against Sri Lanka this year with 153 in the first Test. Dropped for the third. Taken to England. Highest score 90 not out. Given one Test. Blackout again.

But Haqoon's selection now was never justified. He had a miserable tour in 1978 and this time he did not do much better. The salubrious conditions for the moving ball have never been much to his benefit though back in drier Pakistan Haqoon is a very safe bet in the middle order. The Indians should better watch out this winter.

Another one the Indians ought to be prepared for, and which goes without saying, is Imran Khan himself. Under him the once fragmented Pakistan side looks an extremely dangerous outfit and especially so at home. During the series Imran showed a considerable penchant for attacking bowling, the yardstick of which easily qualifies him as one of the best bowlers for a long time. There is this arm ball that he developed on the trip itself. As Richie Benaud says, "It is not an inswinger," and is directed intently with a late move to the leg. Coming with the arm it is difficult to pick and makes matters more mortifying when it is coupled with the yorker. Allau Lamb, during his innings of 118 in the Trent Bridge over limit game, almost fell over his back while trying to get out of the way (!) while some time later Imran did a repeat. This time Tavare was bowled, one short of what would have been a deserved half hundred.

Not only that but Imran has also risen to the top with the most lethal swing of the world at present. In fact, Bob Willis remarked what an uncommon virtue it was of alchemising the

virtues of swing and pace the way he was doing

"I was surprised at the amount the ball came back from the off," was Randall's puzzled reaction after shouldering arms at Edgbaston and finding the balls doing a little jig. Earlier, Imran with all his speed had Botham clean bowled even before he could begin on his downswing! And then at Lord's one of his sonic offerings ended on Randall's ribs while another on that same day sent Lambie's tin-cap whirring.

And what has most certainly added the fizz to his venom has been his captaincy, and more surprisingly so in the light of the Botham captaincy aftermath. Imran has been highly successful when you consider that a truncated Pakistan lost the series in Australia last winter. This is because Imran Khan, charismatic as he is, leads by example and what's more, his effectiveness may have been vastly increased had he not caught the injury bug, too. Imran showed the ability of inspiring his team mates through his bowling and when it came to batting he was prepared to play the hanger on when glue was the missing element. His 17 not out in the first innings at Leeds was blended with caution and the late addition of explosion, though in the second innings he supplemented to the point that the material for a complete batsman was available.

Though Imran had a largely blameless series as captain and every thing to support John Woodcock's viewpoint of his being a "genuine leader" a couple of confusions arose from the manner of his handlings. For example at Lord's on the last day when England's batsmen looked just about pulling off a draw he called for the new ball in the 117th over. But the tailenders would have coped inconclusively against the highly speeding cherry somehow seemed to escape him. When he did call for it he threw it to Qadir (!) to reap the advantage out of a hard leathery surface. The spinner responded immediately and Haqoon had clutched on fast.

But Imran's sulphuric test is yet to be over and done with. Much of the side is welded now into a great force unit, as Henry Blofeld asks, "will they follow him as a team and pull together or will the batsmen take the same shambling individual paths they took at Edgbaston?" And which makes sense, too, considering that Imran is a compromise choice over the Miandad threat of quitting for Pakistan. Ijaz Majid or Zaheer was made captain!

The other Pakistani who can go to his grave with the satisfaction that his life was well spent and popularity achieved was Ahsan Ali Qadir. Originally branded as a "surprise selection", he flaunted his figures of 53 wickets to write much of the story. Whatever other little was left to scripted came



*I have done it! Mudasar tries to do the high jump as umpire Constant rules Lamb bow at Lord's*

from English writers. A certain Donald Woods was of the opinion that "You could imagine that face emerging from the mystic gloom of a Karachi bazaar to whisper dread tidings of deceit in high places and intrigue in the back streets, and the name Ahsan is somehow appropriate, hinting at the mystery and magic that is about to be worked on some poor plodding Englishman at the crease."

Qadir was particularly fortunate in having a very understanding captain with a lot of confidence in him as well as a manager himself a leg spinner. Then main stand for bringing him along was because of the lack of English experience in playing bowlers of his type and the nature of covered wickets, thus shunning the straying moisture or the residue of the overnight rain leading to the chances of the ball eluding the spin

ner's tightened grasp

And the main reason for his on strike—and which goes even without saying—has been his rare ability to bowl exactly three balls with the same action. It is not as elementary as it often sounds. The slightest change in flight, pace in the air or off the pitch, position of the arm and the chest-on mode of the delivery can be detected by pragmatic Test batsman like the Tower of Pisa, and then searching in groups can be demolished individually. But even till the end of the third Test no English batsman—though Travers at times tended to prove to the contrary—could tell one ball from the other. This was mainly the reason for an unusual googly grip of placing the forefinger beneath the ball as a lever for each of his deliveries. Thus, no former googly bowlers had ready answers and not did Randall when

...backed away to cut what looked like an innocuous leg break at Lord's. If only it had been. It came in viciously with the unready Randall backing away. He was saved; the ball took the inside edge, darted off and the batsman got four runs!

Among the other Pakistan come-goods has been Mohsin Khan. He could have, perhaps, found no better way than to strike big time news that with a fiction-like double century at Lord's Mohsin was at his elegant station as usual, doubtless a Zaheer effect, and there cannot two minds about his future progress for Pakistan. By that time he will have also weeded out the tendency to fall excessively on the off side as well as the failing of flicking too early, thus, being across even before meeting the ball.

Then there was Miandad who, when he has was not hugging Haroon Rashid at Lord's, was perched like a bird of prey under the batsman's nose while Qadir tempted and teased. He let his old self make an appearance when he himself, while batting, stretched his hands and called Botham for 'wide' as soon as he sensed that he wouldn't make it. Not that Botham was pleased!

But I must bring into light his marvellous innings at Trent Bridge in the one-day international. He preempted a Botham prerogative, so to say, when he, backhanded, swept Hemmings thrice and to cherry the pudding 'played one cut with a crispness and certainty seldom seen since Denis Compton retired'. That was Robin Marlar.

And then Mudassar Nazar. Do characters in Pakistan ever cease? Not, I guess with bowling-changers like him. He seldom did so even for Cheshire as a professional last season and my cursory research provides that he came to England with just 11 Test wickets to his name. Well, he left Heathrow with another 10! And in just two innings. And to think of it that it began when Imran put him in to allow Sarfraz to change ends. Change ends! For in the third ball he had Randall bowled, in the fifth Lamb lbw by some strange voicey bit and Gower, the captain, off the eighth caught behind! My hand on my heart, some in the Press Box shook their heads and said, "What the hell is he doing? Pooh, a fluke and what else?"

I like his dad. For next day, picking up from overnight figures of 6-3 113, he roped in Botham, Gatting and Ian Greig also, now six for 32! But one thing was rather evident that he made shrewd use of the bowling crease. Inexplicably he was given little bowling while Qadir was fenced time and again in the first innings at Leeds—another Imran quirk. When he got in the second innings Mudassar did something funny again. Now he captured four while even Imran had three! More

...and more choice words and in between: "What do I have to do not to get out to him?" Silence and then timber, then more bats and more choice words...

**THE ENGLISH** on the other scale looked a wanting side. On many an occasion their batsmen, who had fared so well against the Indians earlier, now played like wooden spoonists. For once this summer, Botham as a batsman was reduced to looking ordinary and never more so than when Naqash, son of the executive editor of the *Pakistan Times*, had him groping first ball at Edgbaston. Botham did go on to play a couple of innings of a very high pedigree but against a varied and talented Pakistan the century mark just seemed double the distance away.

But among the English batsmen the one that fixed the eye was Chris Tavare. Whatever one might say about his last gear innings that man has some ability. How many of England's present line-up could expect



Sarfraz (centre) is all smiles as Imran (left) and Mansour congratulate him.

to go out there and stand out a couple of hours? For Tavare most certainly could—and did. His slow scoring is, however, another thing. And that also comes in for much understanding when you realise that England's openers never really got going and that opening the innings was an unwelcome responsibility that was thrust upon him. He had never wanted it, the selectors had forced him to. Moreover, his 82 at Lord's which became the bulls-eye of much trenchant criticism because of his reticence, as people said was willingly enticed far from it just when the wickets were falling it was he who had the good sense to make discriminate batting a relevant virtue. His first 32 runs took him five hours, stretching his first eight runs of the morning over 24 overs. But later in the day when the sun had rolled past its zenith and with Botham and Gatting gone Tavare woke up the scorers. As if to prove a point, he barometered from 32 to 82 in just 110 minutes!

Derek Randall was another one to be thrust out as an unwilling opener. He kept the flag flying with the only

English century of the series at Edgbaston but from then on the light became stiffer. He, too, didn't want to open but had no other choice. Even the figures bear him out as a poor humdrum. On nine occasions in Tests he has been out for noughts which comes up to a rough 18% of his Test innings. And as if to corroborate it he himself says, "I'm a bad starter and I nearly always bat early against the new ball. I haven't got a lot of technique also." One wonders what Dennis Lillee would have done to him in Australia!

But one of Willis' cadre of whom Peter May did have something to think about and mainly all in the encouraging was Robin Jackman. Jackman has always been an honest County bowler for Surrey and it seems rather a feed back to the good old days when old pros made their first tour of Australia at 35 and beyond. Jackman is 37 and all the more youthful for it. At Leeds, as if in support of Willis' statement that someone else would have to do the donkey work, he bowled not one less than 45 overs from the Kirkstall Lane End, the drive beginning at 12.05 and ending only at 5.40! John Woodcock rightly wrote later that "Jackman does the work of three men." Not that there has been anything in his abilities to prove that he is a shade beyond even the extraordinary. His being drafted into the master team was largely the result of the 'rebel' ban which consumed Hendrick, Lever and Chris Old, all regular steps.

But the enthusiasm of this man cannot be mistaken. He still, hour after hour, produces the balls on the off or its immediate neighbourhoods to make the batsman's life that bit more difficult. Movement in the air, a bit off the pitch, an edge and an appeal all that Jackman needs for a decent living. Ah appeal! On any given sporting County afternoon when the erudite cricket correspondents would be having a quick nap to offset post lunch drowsiness there would be a miscalculation. And then, you know what I'm embarrassed rubbing of the eyes and "What happened, huh?" "I was Jacked." "Thank God for a second I dreamt I was sand bagged."

Apologies for bringing in Qadir once again, but what a man. The other day, you wouldn't believe it, umpire Constant had to tutor him on how to appeal politely! Unexpected things kept happening, to tell you. Like when Mohsin Khan offering his word in three to Allah, bowed to the Kaaba, or was it? Instead of the east he had bent the knee towards the south-west!

Great times. Great series. lucky to have seen every ball of it. My friend Bill Frindall tells me that it was the first series since 1896 to have produced results in each of three Tests. There!

# Why Miandad and Majid don't see eye to eye

**W**HEN the quicker bowlers are in operation for Pakistan these days, two former captains, Majid Khan and Javed Miandad, stand at first and second slip respectively. The former, of course, was not included in the side for the recently concluded first two Tests against England. But he was back in the team for the final Test, giving rise to the fielding arrangement mentioned. The funny thing was, however, that not once during the two England innings at Headingley did one see the two cricketers even exchange glances, let alone talk to each other. Intrigued, I enquired of a Pakistani journalist about this. Pat came the reply: "It's what you call the Lahore-Karachi syndrome."

Mind you, it was not that I was unaware of circumstances that allegedly pertain to cricketers of these two cities, but the assertion by my friend, if anything, increased my curiosity, and my desire to probe further. I put the claim to Imran Khan, the captain of the Pakistan side, even suggesting to him that there might have been an act of non-cooperation with him by the Karachi boys in the first Test at Edgbaston. This he hotly denied. And Imtiaz Alam, the manager of the touring party, refuted the allegation too. Actually, reports had already appeared in the British Press about dissension in the Pakistani camp during the first Test, and my efforts unearthed the information that Nuri Khan, the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, had given his commitment a stern lecture just before the Lord's Test, urging them to more distinguished endeavours.

On the basis of this it's very easy to jump to conclusions—the wrong one that is—and harp on the view that poor team spirit, indeed, cost Pakistan the first Test. As I have been at pains to point out in the past, it is unreasonable to believe that any man will sacrifice his personal ambitions, and in the process jeopardise his Test future. By trying to hurt the team or a group within a side, an individual cannot avoid injuring himself. How can anyone be so foolhardy?

But, of course, there is apparently an undercurrent of hostility between the Lahore and Karachi lobbies. This is nothing new and has existed in Pakistan cricket right from its entry into the highest level of the game. Earlier this year, Majid Khan masterminded a revolt against Javed Miandad and ultimately removed him from the captaincy. Majid be-

longs to Lahore, Javed to Karachi. The bad blood between the two players was probably as much a personal feud as anything else. But there was seemingly an undercurrent of the Lahore-Karachi factor influencing matters.

What happened was—and this occurred immediately after the tour of Australia—the entire Lahore bloc sided with Majid, and presented a fait accompli to the Pakistan Board. The next series was against Sri Lanka and Javed remained at the helm without the services of the rebels in the first two of the three Tests, though not for the visit to England—the patchwork formula worked out by the authorities. Majid did not get the captaincy, he probably didn't want it, but his cousin, Imran, emerged as 'the most acceptable choice'.

From all appearances, relations between Imran and Javed are on a pretty even keel. The latter has, no doubt, battled nationally almost throughout the last series, but then this is part of his nature. On the plus side, he has willingly stood at suicidal positions, and also taken some excellent catches—in his enthusiasm he even claimed one on the half volley, at Headingley! And Mubshir Khan, who comes from Karachi and who at first sided with Majid during the post-Australia rift, hereon switching back his loyalty to Javed—with whom he works in the same Bank—produced the most memorable batting performance of the series with his double hundred at Lord's.

The impetuosity of Pakistan batsmen and their inability to cash in on advantageous positions is often interpreted as a lack of allegiance. But hellfire has been very much part and parcel of this team's batting in the past twelve years. A surfeit of stroke players has contributed to this approach, and it's a malady they haven't quite got rid of even today. This might be described as irresponsible, as an absence of a professional outlook, but it certainly is not sabotage, as some have termed it to be.

If one reflects back to the last India-Pakistan series, it was precisely this lacuna that heralded in a substantial manner the tourists' downfall. The slow wickets back home do not encourage aggression, yet the Pakistanis were disinclined towards buckling down to sensible defence, and a wait for the runs to come. They paid the penalty, as the Indians, very shrewdly capitalised on this temperamental flaw and recovered the rubber handsomely.

Another unfortunate feature about Pakistan cricket is the inconsistency in team selection. This, in all likelihood, is analysed in some quarters as a manifestation of the Lahore-Karachi impulse. But the fact remains that failures are pounced upon much too harshly. Take the case of Wasim Raja—he got 14 and 60 in the two one-day matches and 26 and 16 in the first Test in the just finished tour. But he was dropped for the next two Tests. Wasim, though not a prolific run-getter, has generally been rather useful when his side has most needed runs. True, he possesses an impatient streak, but then are not several other Pakistani batsmen guilty on this count?

And to embellish the titillating character of choosing teams, Haroun Rashid, who replaced Wasim, was tested after just one failure, Majid taking his place, and that too, unsuccessfully. It is said that the erstwhile 'Packer' temp in the Pakistan side do not quite approve of Wasim, because he did not join them in World Series Cricket. How far this is true one cannot voice unequivocally, but the bearded left hander does appear to be a bit of a loner in the side.

Pakistan cricket today is probably more under the control of Lahore than Karachi, with both the President of the Board and the Chairman of the selection committee, Majsood Ahmed, hailing from the West Punjab capital, though the former, a powerful figure, has settled in the port city. This is, possibly, resented by Karachiites, but name one cricketing country where there is no rivalry between regions. Bombay and Delhi in India, the Northern Counties and the Southern Counties in England, Melbourne and Sydney in Australia, the North and the South Islands in New Zealand and between one territory or the other in the West Indies. It is doubtful if this leads to batsmen deliberately throwing away their wickets or bowlers not taking wickets, although it is hard to deny sometimes that players do not test on their oars once a safe number of runs or wickets have been acquired.

But to return to the original discussion—about the recent Edgbaston Test. No, I do not believe that any Pakistani purposely wrecked Imran Khan's chances of winning that match. I am sorry to displease sensation mongers, but I am convinced this is the way it was. And it is unlikely to be any different when India go to Pakistan this winter.

ASHIS RAY



# My ambition was never to play Test cricket

Arun Lal, recently selected to play in the Test against Sri Lanka at Madras, talks to  
**MUDAR PATHERYA**

**"I DON'T** want to talk before the Test. I'll give you my data and you can work on it if you want." A typical shoulder arms, I'd say! However, a bit of cajoling and our man is made. "Okay, see me then at 6.15—evening—at the Indian Cricket Centre." So be it.

At the Centre Arun Lal is apologetic. "Sorry, can't make it now. I've been invited to *Satyanaam ki puja* at my friend's place and there is very little time. Could you err," as Arun puts finger to lip and looks up as if contemplating the bulbs above, "make it by eight o'clock, no, 8.15, at home. We'll sit comfortably." Done.

Arun Lal's was a cricketing family. His father, Jagdish Lal, had played first class cricket in his time. "He played for seven Ranji Trophy associations which I think is a record in itself"—and what was more, he had a cousin in Akash who "narrowly missed playing for India. His father used to be abroad as he was in the foreign service, so Akash would live with us. I used to be very fond of cricket because there was so much cricket discussed at home on the dining table with my father and Akash. As a kid I remember carrying his kit bag to games in the Ranji Trophy."

In fact, Akash went on to captain the North Zone and even reached the Ranji Trophy final. He got oodles of runs—some 13 or 14 centuries, too, but somehow couldn't make it under the micround. You bet Arun Lal is making up for them, his father included.

Arun Lal did not play against the Caribbeans here in 1978-79 but in the following season he brought home his mark. He opened with 99 at Shimoga against Hughes' Australians and from then on was in the running. I think 1979-80 was his best year—1 mean till last season. I'd hoped that I would get a chance then, then sat out for six Tests and then was painfully removed from the reserves even. I wasn't given a chance. And suddenly it seemed all that far away again. Being so close and the entire thing you are living achieve seemed so far away and then also we had a little problem in Delhi. There was this what do call

it "and little Lal's voice trailed away.

Any political venture. "No, I'm not aware of anything but it just seemed a bit harsh on me. My entire reaction was this, that I felt that I was always going to make it, then everything started clearing away on its own. Suddenly everything seemed so far away, so far away."

But ah me, the following season of 1980-81 didn't turn as expected. It was a "fiasco" as far as Arun was concerned and he captioned it with a believe it or not air. "I was even dropped from the North Zone side for a match." But a purple patch was just at hand. "When I came to Bengal I had a very good time and I scored everywhere I played. In one match in the Wills Trophy it was 48, in the Ranji Trophy I scored 48 and 46 against the Railways. The only time I failed was when I made eight and 22." Only the Bombayman Dossa doesn't keep figures.

But 1981-82 climaxed it all. He got 104 out of 237 against South Zone against howlers like Roger Binny, Valson, Yadav and Narasimha Reddy—three former internationals and the other a near one. A week later he was to come up with another against West Zone in the Daleep Trophy final, the height of it for the none too tall Lal. "I thought that was very neat." Blemishless? I think there was one difficult chance, a return catch to Chavhan early on in the innings. He is a great timer. I straightly drove it on to his right, he dived, he fell, got a hand to it. Just missed it. "A 109 runs was the result and East Zone ought to have won that match. They had Gavaskar's Bombay sinking at 136 for six wickets as a meek rejoinder to the Orientals. 327 but somewhat flunked it. And, oh the heartbreaks. Vengsarkar lower in the order got into three figures and Shastri hit 134. West Zone never pattered after that, in fact, they got 431 and wrapped it up.

There must have been a lot of pressure on him at that time I ask. "No, no, no. In fact, I couldn't care less then. Lal earlier on cricket used to get on my mind, was tense about having to perform, having to

perform, don't perform then you are out. Just hang and hang, people won't overtake you. But last season I wanted to play cricket and really enjoy it. I couldn't be bothered whether I scored a zero, or scored a hundred. It wasn't going to affect me—obviously one felt on top of the world whenever I got my hundred. Don't mistake me in saying that I didn't feel like performing. Definitely you play cricket to perform, but if for some reason I didn't perform then it wasn't going to bring me very down. That is probably the reason why I enjoyed my cricket last season. I was playing under that much lesser pressure."

Considering the weight of the runs he got against the West Zone you would naturally be inclined to ask him whether that was his best ever innings. He doesn't think so and ranks his 165 not out for Delhi University against Osmania in the Baroda final as his high fiver. They needed 76 and there was only one wicket left. Sumit Valson. "I was batting at the other end," picks up Lal, "and you won't believe it, I scored the next 76 runs." All of them all 76. And we had some good opposition. Shiv Lal Yadav and the like. Moreover, it was a mating wicket and the ball was turning a lot. We had a partnership of 80 in which 'Vally' got four. In fact he hit his first four after we had crossed the total!

And then Arun Lal comes up with an interesting anecdote. "When I shifted schools in the ninth I went to Mayo College, Ajmer. There it was the first time that I ever did not practice because earlier on I would swing my ball down my side. Much to the concern of my father who would say, 'Play straight son, straight.' So in Mayo I got this chance for practice and my coach thought very highly of me and sent me for the Rajasthan Schools trials. There they had a trial match for the selection of the Schools team. I was told to go in and bat and, believe me, did so for an hour and a half. They called me out afterwards—wasn't dismissed—with 16 runs to my name. I was definitely in. I told myself and I wanted to write my father."

But wait. By cripes, Lal was dropped! Because some mung of a master thought that short meant had and said that he'd be harassed by fast bowling! As for me I expect the competition to hot up greatly between him and Gavaskar as they go out to bat in Chhapauk in later September. "You're 5 ft 4 in, I'm 5'6". Just the reverse, m'lud."

And then Arun Lal epilogues it with, "As far as I am concerned nothing has happened." Tremendous credentials for India's future opener—fingers crossed and the wisdom of which will be only realised when De Mel works for difficult negotiation down south or when, say, Imran Khan purges one too short nearer the khyber.





ARUN LAL  
JAYANTA SETI

# I should have retired way back in 1976

**Eknath Solkar talks to HARESH MUNWANI about his career**

**E**KNATH SOLKAR. His name is a constant reminder of a player who was enough to stand in the suicidal 'believe' position close to the batsman.

Solkar was born on 18 March 1948. His father used to work for the Hindu Gymkhana, known for its cricketing traditions in Bombay, and the young lad grew up in surroundings from which it was only logical that he should become a cricketer. Yet his entry was purely accidental. One day, the Hindu Gymkhana team was short of players and Solkar was called in. But he didn't have any shoes. A Samaritan offered him his own pair and Solkar captured two wickets in that match.

In a career spanning 27 Test matches, the Bombay cricketer scored 1,008 runs, took 18 wickets and held 13 catches. Solkar's initial

move into Test cricket was rather casual. He played his first Test against New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1969. With the very first ball he bowled, Solkar had the batsman Graham Dowling edging a catch to Venkat at backward short leg. Says Solkar: "Had that catch been taken, I would have joined the select band of cricketers who have captured a wicket with their very first ball in Tests." Solkar's last Test was against Tony Greig's Englishmen at Calcutta in the 1976-77 series.

All through his early years Solkar possessed a teasing flight while bowling spin and was reasonably effective. He switched over to medium pace because one day he lost the Delhi Test against the Australians in 1969, one of the selectors saw him bowl with the new ball and was impressed. India was

*Venkatraghavan and Abid Ali, along with Solkar, formed the outstanding trio of close-in fielders who were a menace to the batsmen for the major part of the Seventies. PARIAB RANCHAND asked Venkat for his views on Solkar the fielder.*

**SPORTSWORLD:** What were the qualities that made Solkar such an outstanding close-in fieldman?

**SV:** First of all, I guess it must have come from the fact that he had a natural flair for fielding. When fielders are made and some are natural. Solkar belonged to the latter category. This gave him an immediate edge over other fielders. At his period, his bowling partners were fitness, anticipation and concentration and all these he possessed in ample measure.

**SW:** Was he in good in the outfield?

**SV:** Yes, he possessed the same qualities in the outfield. You know he used to have an intention to try to catch the ball would go.

**SW:** So he was sure it help to all four of your (Prasanna, Chandra, Bedi and Venkat).

**SV:** These were the four great players that

**SW:** Would you class him as the greatest close-in fieldman you ever saw?

**SV:** It is difficult to answer that. Even I have taken many fine catches in those positions, so I can't answer that categorically.

**SW:** Let's go back to The Oval in 1971 and that wonderful catch that Solkar took to dismiss Knott. You were the bowler. Can you tell exactly how it came about?

**SV:** Knott was very useful in the middle order and was a constant thorn to our side that summer. His chief stroke against the spinners was a bat pad jab. That particular ball I bowled was pitched around middle and leg and Knott went well forward and played it with the spin but took care to keep the ball down. It was not at all a chance. It was a genuine forward defensive stroke. But Solkar displaying remarkable agility and exceptional anticipation, dived full length forward to grab the ball almost off the ground as it came. Only because he went full length on the pitch was he able to reach the ball. Here I must make the point that cricketers must not only take catches, but also make catches. And this is where Solkar excelled.

looking for a bowler to open the bowling with Subroto Guha. Being the team man that he was, Solkar agreed. It is as he says: "The team's needs come before mine." It was a decision that Solkar was not too happy about, because as he said: "If I had remained a spinner, I would have certainly played more Tests."

Solkar seems to feel that his career began its downhill trend on the 1976 tour to New Zealand. An incident occurred in an early match which indirectly affected him. "Bedi was the bowler and I was standing at gully. The ball flew from the bat and was landing just ahead of me. Though I held the ball, one of my fingers went underneath it. It was bent. The agony was unbearable. I was out of action for three weeks. I have never felt so depressed as I did during that time. I was frustrated, lonely and disgusted. It was ironical that a senior cricketer like me had to do the scoring. After this, someone started the rumour that I was finished as a cricketer and this didn't help matters. No one stood by me in my hour of crisis," Solkar concluded.

Moving on to more happy memories, he recalled: "Gavv Sobers was my idol as a schoolboy. I had never imagined that one day I would play against him. I first met Sobers when I was to play for the World eleven against England. Besides Sobers, the other members were Kanhai, Mike Procter, Greame and Peter Pollack. Barry Richards, Eddie Barlow, Imtiaz Ahmed, Asif Iqbal and Farooq Engineer. I was to be the twelfth man. In the hotel I shared a room with Rohan Kanhai. When I first came to know of this I nearly fainted because at that time Kanhai was a great batsman. And the first thing that Sobers told me was, 'Lad, polish my shoes.' I was shocked because even in India the twelfth man never polished shoes. But Kanhai came to my rescue and said what Sobers meant was to ask the attendant to polish the shoes."

On the 1971 tour to the West Indies in one of the Tests the ball was being changed. Solkar asked to have a look at the spherical object. At this stage Sobers told Solkar, "You are going to play and miss anyway so what's the point. The ball has gone out of shape because you are always edging it with your bat." Not one to take that Solkar quipped, "You play your way, I will play my way."

Solkar led Bombay to a victory in the Ranji Trophy during the 1980-81 season. The next year he spent on the sidelines. "It was disappointing. For one year you are the captain, the next year you are out. It's for this reason that I decided to retire before the season began this year. Maybe I should have retired way back in 1976 itself," Solkar concluded bitterly.

# Sussex appeal in John Player League trophy

**T**HE sun rose for Sussex again and just when the one above seemed close to the nether west at Hove it was done. They beat Brearley's Middlesex by 23 runs and ensured the winning of the John Player League for the very first time and the fourth over-limit trophy in their history.

And you should have seen the thousands—full eight of them—jumping the fringe boards marking the boundaries after Middlesex's last had fallen. A Press colleague said it reminded him of the wave on the sands of Brighton—singular, in a sweeping curve and all powerful. Another, less modern, said that his mind had immediately travelled back two decades in a jiffy and saw superimposed figures of Dexter and his men returning with the spoils. Nostalgia.

Till this match Sussex had just lost one game in the League in the season and there was a very probable chance of their beating the League points record. But more than the winning strings that were attached to this game, it was the captaincy angle latched on to decide the more astute leader—for some the most. Brearley, in spite of all his manoeuvring lost though he came pretty close to pulling off the staggering. And hence, the hysteria for the addicted at Sussex's County ground, the variety of voices climaxing and

then petering out with the come and go of deliveries from Le Roux and Greig.

And to think of it that the man over whom all down there had been hubbubbing over was, for a moment, not centurion Mendis but old John Emburey, who had the natives tangled in his bit of spin early on in the day. His eight overs yielded a pair of minims 20 only while even the hulky Daniel yielded 56 and Cowans 40. And later on, for the buzz there was Mendis of course.

Sussex began the day in decent nick and the 50 on the board rolled up in only a dozen overs, while 93 was marked up in the twentieth. Eight overs later the mayhem had statistically increased by another half hundred and Sussex were moving. Brearley permuted with his fielding combinations, ordered his men around but things never caught on. Middlesex's flanneled faithfuls even threw themselves on hurtling spinners, but in the 'one run to just no avail.

Mendis advanced steadily and got his 50 in a flurry of drives, hooks and rasping cuts and many on the ground actually wondered why he should not have been doing duty at Leeds against Pakistan.

By this time Gould, too, had got going. Dressed down rather mildly

at that, by his more stroking partner in the thirties he showed his muscular abandon and was acknowledging the cheers for his 50 just an over after Mendis's. The stand was broken, much to Middlesex's comfort, at 134 and to Gould's relief as well—he was suffering from leg injuries and was noticeably wobbling through at times. Gould took liberties with a Slack delivery and it proved costly at 58 and some time later Wells—no artisan—went for a shui in the heavens and paid with his wicket.

These mishaps, however, did not deter Mendis. This Sri Lanka born right hander off drove quite powerfully and threw in the touch of delicacy when he late cut time and again as was unimpeachably possible. He carved his 100 out of 180 and was out just five minutes before the closure when Brearley's throw found the sticks and he was back. Paul Parker chucked in his bit too, hit a fiery six off Cowans and was bowled the same over while Le Roux put some startling beet into it at times. He made 23 including an outrageous six over the wicketkeeper's head. Sussex finished at 226 for seven wickets and the afternoon suddenly took on a challenging charge.

Not that Middlesex were outplayed. Brearley was out early and he shuffled and reshifted the batting order and for some time the plays just clicked. Slack picked himself up to make 31, Butcher hit an explanatory 59 and while they were on some peace amidst the bedlam of pleading was restored. Soon for a moment it was to turn to downright bouree when Paul Parker of old fielders dropped Butcher when the batsman was embroiled in his innocence. Mike Brearley, I guess who had once written that Parker was the best to do in the world must have chuckled to himself in the pavilion at that.

But soon Butcher had been swallowed up by the pavilion and Downton was gone too but Middlesex were advancing. Bitch heads mounting tension and more pumped adrenalin. 'What next?' most asked and behaved as if Hitchcock had produced another thriller. The visitors crept up to 203 till the last man Hughes was out and the dams burst. Le Roux had picked up three for 27 while Greig settled for two for 44 and even considering the overs left Middlesex were a doomed side. Even if their last man had survived they would have been faced with unenviable exercise of fetching 24 runs off the next five balls—not exactly a feasible proposition.



Mike Brearley—plays failed

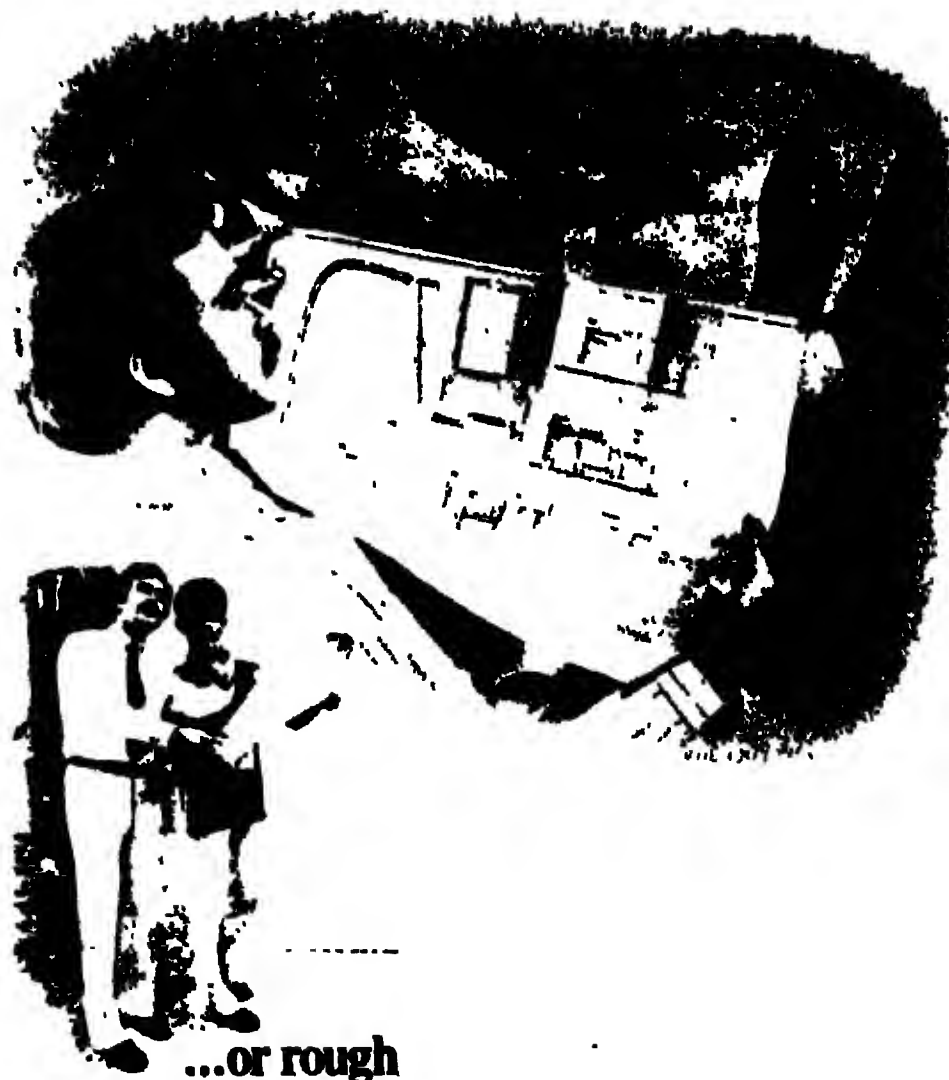


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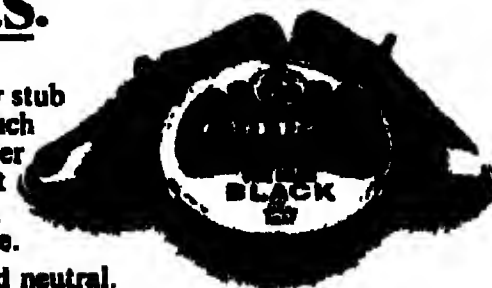




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US OPEN

# Indian challenge collapses

Flushing Meadows  
Public Library

GEORGE K. GEORGE reports on how Ivan Lendl overcame Ramesh Krishnan, the only Indian representative at Flushing Meadow

INDIAN interest in the U.S. Open was snuffed out when Ramesh Krishnan became Ivan Lendl's victim in the first round. Lendl won 6-4, 7-6, 6-1. But, as the scores indicate, it was anything but the expected slaughter of the innocents. The match, played after the massacre of American Bill Scanlon by Wilander, came as a pleasant surprise to those of the record 15,461 people who found themselves on the Stadium Court.

Lendl won the toss and elected to receive. The strategy was to break Ramesh early and thus maintain a psychological advantage. Ramesh seemed to be suffering from nerves in the opening game and made all the possible errors, including a dou-

ble fault. In the entire game, Lendl made only one error. In the second game, Ramesh began to play his natural game and he looked comfortable and confident. Each man held serve for the next two games.

In the fourth game, Ramesh pushed Lendl to duce and broke him. The crowd, almost entirely pro Krishnan, came alive.

But the next game presented some anxious moments as Ramesh served 30-40 and held advantage twice before winning it. During this game, Ramesh also came to the net, though without success.

Suddenly, Lendl began to force the pace and Ramesh fell right into the trap. The Czech swept the seventh

and the eighth game without granting a single point to his Indian rival. In Lendl's service game as well as in his own, Ramesh hit most of the balls out. Lendl just let him make mistakes after mistakes. It was Ramesh's errors rather than Lendl's winning shots that caused this turning point in this set.

The second set produced some magnificent tennis from Ramesh. He took the first set at love, served some bitter jolts to Lendl in the second and won the third after duce. He had a good chance of breaking in the second, after levelling at 30-30, but two risky shots at a crucial stage cost him dearly. Lendl held serve and then let Ramesh play another erratic game and broke him after Ramesh led 40-15.

Thereafter, both men held serve for the next two games. Ramesh pushed Lendl to another duce at this crucial stage but let him escape once again. The Indian took the fourth game at love, this time allowing Lendl to make the mistakes. Then he broke Lendl to level at five games apiece, with another love game. A series of errors by Lendl in the next game gave Ramesh his first lead in the match at 6-5. It was tie-breaker time as the Czech held his serve.

After some brilliant tennis in the first half of the tie-breaker, Ramesh began to make some costly errors. Still, he managed to make it 6-6 after trading by two points. But Lendl just swept the next two points at will, to take the set 7-6.

In the third set, Ramesh produced occasional flashes of brilliance, but the will to fight had clearly dwindled. "It was good tennis," said Ramanathan Krishnan, who watched the match with his wife. "Lendl is a tough player to beat. But Ramesh played well. He came to the net and played a good game."





**Close-up**

# Piggott-King Of The Pigskin

FRANK GOMES

**H**IS desire is to spur his mount to the winner's enclosure. His aim is to break Sir Gordon Richards' all time record of 4,870 winners.

One must remember that the legendary Sir Gordon achieved this distinction between 1921-1954. His record, arguably, is more remarkable. He was up against other brilliant knights of the pigskin and moreover there were fewer meets at the time. The rule in those days was that a jockey could only get one mount a day.

It was, in August 1948—34 years ago—that Lester Keith Piggott donned silks on his first winner, *The Chase*, at Haydock Park. Since then both Dame Luck and individual brilliance have always been on his side.

Aldross is a horse Lester Piggott will remember throughout his life. This was the horse that enabled him to reach the magic figure of riding 4,000 winners in English flat racing. Allow me to take you back to the Newbury Racecourse on August 14 this year when Piggott reached the landmark. It was in the Geoffrey Freer Stakes run over a distance of 1 mile 5 furlongs and 60 yards. Piggott's mount was freely available at 3 to 1 in the ring. In this race there were three other runners—Lester Sun, Aberfield and Bultin. Aldross, with the great Piggott astride, won easily gaining a four lengths verdict. Aldross's win was a repetition of 1981. As if to celebrate the memorable occasion the wonder jockey won in style in the very next race on *Balanchine*.

Aldross wears the colours of sporting owner Charles St. George and is trained by Henry Cecil. Piggott and St. George are old friends. In fact, he does not remember the exact number of winners Piggott has ridden for him, but acknowledges, "Lester has never failed me every year since 1957."

As age catches up Piggott's public image softens. Race-goers accustomed to seeing him going down like a hard-faced pro, were in for a surprise when Piggott rode his 4000th winner. He was all smile as he signed hundreds of autographs and popped

champagne bottles to let people know how much he loved the sport. Piggott will run Aldross three more times before the latter retires to stud. Piggott will be astride Aldross in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on October 3. However, Asser's spectacular win by six lengths in the Benson and Hedges Gold Cup at York on August 17 naturally makes Aldross's task all the more difficult when they meet. The 47-year-old Lester Piggott is happily married to Susan Armstrong for the last 22 years. Glamour and money have not gone to his head and he still supports his father Keith, and mother Iris. Piggott received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1975. By 1971, he had been champion jockey of the English flat racing season as many as nine times.



Lester Piggott shows his gratitude to Alleged after they won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

The ace jockey has won the Derby eight times. In 1954 on *Never Say No*, 1957—*Crépello*, 1960—*St. Paul*, 1968—*Sir Ivor*, 1970—*Nijinsky*, 1972—*Roberto*, 1976—*Empire* and in 1977 astride *The Minstrel*. Piggott has won the prestigious St. Leger seven times. In 1975 he equalled the record of 21 classic victories. On several seasons way back since 1955 he has ridden well over hundred winners a year. In July 1974 Piggott rode his 3000th winner.

He rides throughout the world, frequently in France and regularly in England. He repeated the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe victory which he had in 1973 on *Rheingold* again in 1977 and 1978 on *Alleged*.

Piggott's winning spree is moving at a very quick pace this year, and if he goes on winning at this rate he may reach the 200 mark by the end of the year. If he can repeat this performance for the next three sea-

sons or so he can cross Sir Gordon's mark of 4,870 wins. And what is more he will then become the youngest jockey to achieve this feat in the history of racing.

When Queen Elizabeth II visited Calcutta in 1961 Piggott also came down to ride *Rishy*, which was trained by B. Gajadhar. It was a great day for all lovers of the sport in the city as they had the opportunity to see the champion jockey in action. *Commuter* (6 to 4) was the favourite with Piggott's mount being quoted at 5 to 1. Neither won. Instead the 12 to 1 outsider *Pa Bear* owned by Mrs. A. H. Billimoria, trained by Galstaun and ridden by Wally Swinburn won the prestigious event—the Queen Elizabeth II Cup—by half a length from *Commuter* with *Rishy* still another half a length away. Howev-

er, in the very next race Piggott was at his brilliant best riding a 5 to 1 outsider past the winning post.

Piggott at the invitation of trainer Galstaun was back again in 1968 to take part in the Calcutta Derby. He was to ride *Fan Haven*, the wonder horse of that season. There were eight runners for the event. The great jockey kept his mount a handy third all the way. At the 100 metre marker Piggott gave the lilly the final call and *Fan Haven* streaked away to win easily.

That was just one of Piggott's many victories. He trains regularly but still finds time to do a little swimming, skiing and even at times plays a round of golf. It is strange that even at the age of 47 Piggott has lost none of his vigour, vitality and desire to win and is still the leading jockey in England. Age is no barrier and one is sure that "Uncle Lester" will still be around for years to come.

## FORMALITIES COMPLETED

East Bengal dropped a point in their last encounter and yet maintained their unbeaten record, while Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting completed the weary course. SUBHASH SARCAR, SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, and DEREK O'BRIEN report on the last few matches

**MOHUN BAGAN** One of the most irritating tasks for a professional (or amateur) footballer is to play in a tournament after all interest in it has been lost. Completing formalities on the football field is as putting off to the players themselves as it is to the thousands of spectators who witness the matches. Talking of spectators, one admires (and on occasions ridicules) the devotion supporters of the 'Big Teams' have for their club. This year towards the closing stages of the League even when East Bengal were streets ahead of Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan fans of the two last named teams came out in thousands to egg their sides on. Isn't it just fantastic? Real football

lovers are not those who sit back in air-conditioned comfort to watch a pulsating World Cup final, but instead people who brave blinding rain or blistering heat, to see the vestiges of their team's performance in a league, for all practical purposes already concluded.

The maroon and greens played three matches in the week under review—two of which they drew and one which they won by the narrowest of margins. In their first match of the week they were held to a goalless draw—then third successive drawn encounter—by Tollygunge Agragani.

All people in Calcutta from shoe shine boys to saave executives have

their loyalties etched out for either Mohun Bagan, East Bengal or Mohammedan Sporting. This correspondent (I'll let you into a secret) has a soft spot for Tollygunge Agragani—it's a long story.

The match which saw the glamour team drop their eighth point was played on a slushy surface and the players of both sides had problems keeping the ball under control. The rain this year has not been as regular as the monsoon most of Calcutta like and as a result footballers have not been able to have the required amount of practice on heavy pitches.

The last scoring chance of the day came Mohun Bagan's way when Dennis Williamson, now scurrying into the

*Mohun Bagan's Dennis Williamson gets a header past the Port goalkeeper*





Nirmal Chatterjee scores Mohammedan S C's second goal against Akya Sammitra

groove of playing in the Bagan First Eleven, raced down the left flank and sent a perfect centre to Amitava Mukherjee. The latter, as he has done so many times this season, shot out Shankar Banerjee, the present Mohun Bagan coach, one may add, used to coach Tolly before making it big. Love all it was—for old time's sake? No, Shankaida, we are only pulling your leg.

IT could well have been yet another draw. Yet another point lost. Yet another evening when abuse rent the air. Fortunately, for Mohun Bagan and disappointingly for Port Trust it was Denis Williamson who did the trick five minutes before lemon time. The ball came to veteran Ulaganathan following a corner. He chipped it into the Port penalty box and young Williamson kept his cool and headed the ball past goalkeeper Tanumoy Bose. Bose did a great job between the posts for his side and thwarted many a Bagan attempt.

The coach of the 'Big Team' Shankar Banerjee decided to bring on Khare Basnett, a young Nepali boy for the first time this season. The adroit striker impressed on his debut and might just be the sort of player who will be useful to lift the sagging spirits of Mohun Bagan for the IFA Shield. He is fast, has extremely good football sense, and one hopes, at least from Mohun Bagan's point of view, that he can dish out the brand of football he did in this match, in

the battles to follow.

**3** 20 p.m. Ten minutes before matches commence in the Calcutta League this winter bids farewell to the pleasures of an conditioning and a cushioned seat and is driven to the Mohun Bagan ground from the office in Central Calcutta. A ten-yard walk—flash of the Press card—up a winding staircase. Its 3-30 p.m. The match gets underway as one sits in the relative comfort of the Press Box. No problems. No complaints.

But it is a different story to relate when one has to see the match sitting in the green stands. And that is precisely what this correspondent did when Mohun Bagan took on Aryan. Journalists of the city were protesting against the Bihar Press Bill and this is why leaving the tranquility of the Press Box, this reporter bought a ticket and saw the match sitting with the public. It was superb. The comments, enthusiasm, abuse—hearing them after ages.

The game itself was played not in the best of spirits and was a classic example for youngster who wanted to learn how not to score. Krishnendu Roy lost his cool and was involved in a mini-fist fight with Sunimal Chatterjee which was why the former was shown the red card. Subrata Bhattacharya, typically, once again lost his head and should have been penalised. Mr Bhattacharya will be well advised to control his temper.

He would then, undoubtedly, serve both his team and himself well. Constructive criticism this and it should not be taken amiss.

**MOHUN BAGAN** played their 26th and last match of the 82nd Calcutta League against Sonali Shibir to register their 18th win. One is sure all supporters, players and officials of the glamour team heaved a sigh of relief as their club completed their engagements. The league championship issue was decided quite some time ago, but then, the formalities had to be completed.

Shankar Banerjee's men had to wait all of 20 minutes of the first half to go into the lead as the Shibir goalkeeper Animesh Chakrabarti gave a good account of himself. Subrata Dev, the winger of the junior team darted down the left flank and then essayed a wonderful centre which went abegging. Dev gave a good account of himself and one would not be surprised if he finds green pastures in the years to come.

Gautam Sarkar who has had to do overtime in the Bagan midfield this year found Amitava Mukherjee who made no mistake. It was the diminutive Amitava who scored his side's second goal to take his individual tally in the League to 13. At the time of writing he heads the goal-scorers list along with Pranab Bose of George Telegraph. However, Amitava should have scored at least 20 goals this season, as he missed gol-





East Bengal's Tapan Das scores against Rajasthan

den opportunities to score. This is a League Mohun Bagan would like to forget—dropped points, injuries—the list is endless.

**EAST BENGAL** All's well that ends well. But, for the home team the end was not at all comfortable. They faced a stiff challenge from Rajasthan and managed to stave off defeat by virtue of a goal that many thought should have been disallowed. The Rajasthan boys went on the offensive right from the beginning and started making easy openings deep into the East Bengal territory, taking full advantage of the gaps left by the red and yellow defenders, who, perhaps, due to the heavy underfoot conditions caused by rain, could nev-

er find their rhythm and had to make desperate last-moment bids to foil their opponents' powerful onslaughts. Both Pulak Biswas and Chinmoy Chatterjee were but shadows of themselves and made a number of inexplicable mistakes which could have irretrievably jeopardized the club's chances of keeping their slates clean and emerging as unbeaten champions. It was only lack of finish on the part of the Rajasthan forwards that spared them such a bad taste in the mouth.

The Rajasthan forwards got the reward for their enthusiasm quite early. In the 8th minute of the first half the East Bengal custodian Tapas Chakraborty failed to collect a lob from the left flank by Probir Mazum-

dar. The ball went to Subman Roy of Rajasthan who beat a diving Biswajit Bose to place the ball home.

From then on till the 15th minute of the second half, it was a desperate struggle for East Bengal to get the equalizer—a sort of punishment for taking things too easy after growing some what complacent over their pre-eminence in this year's league championship.

And even worse, when the equalizer ultimately came their way, it came in a disgraceful fashion. However, the disgrace should rest largely on the shoulders of the conductors of the match, the referee Jagadish Pal and his two assistants. It was a clear case of off-side when Tapan Das of East Bengal placed the ball home with none of the Rajasthan defenders anywhere near the scene. But, what really matters for the big clubs these days is only a favourable result, or for that matter just two or at least one point. East Bengal 'managed' it and there ended the story of its 'glorious' 1982 league campaign.

**MOHAMMEDAN S.C.** Of all the three enclosed grounds, Mohammedan Sporting's is always the worst affected after a heavy shower. Their match against Aikya Sammilani brought more laughter for the home crowd, or so it seemed, rather than the victory. In slushy conditions, both teams concentrated on trying to get a hold on the ball but this soon proved impossible with the result that players slipped repeatedly, giving the crowd plenty of entertainment. In spite of the gaggle, Mohammedan S.C. were able to take a firm grip on the match though the

	M	B	W	L	Ag	Pt
EAST BENGAL	28	23	10	15	51	49
MOHUN BAGAN	28	22	10	16	46	43
MOHD S.C.	28	18	10	10	44	41
ARYANS	26	12	10	4	18	34
PORT TRUST	26	12	10	4	18	31
GEORGE TELEGRAPH	26	10	10	6	22	31
TOLLYGUNGE AGRAGAM	26	5	10	11	10	29
RAJASTHAN	26	8	10	8	23	29
HOWRAH UNION	26	6	10	10	15	27
CUSTOMS	26	5	10	11	12	26
BHARTRI SANGHA	26	5	10	11	21	26
RAILWAY F.C.	26	5	10	11	10	24
EASTERN RAILWAY	26	2	10	13	7	23
BNR	26	4	10	12	12	23
BALKIA FRIENDS	26	4	10	12	10	23
WARI	26	1	10	15	10	21
BATA	26	4	10	12	10	20
BEHALA YOUTH	26	2	10	14	10	20
BARISHA SPORTING	26	2	10	14	10	21
KUMARTULI	26	2	10	14	10	21
SONALI SHIBIR	26	2	10	14	10	21
AIKYA SAMMILANI	26	4	10	12	10	20
KALIGHAT	26	2	10	14	10	20
CALCUTTA GYMKHANA	24	1	10	14	10	19
SPORTING UNION	26	2	10	14	10	20
RODDERPORE	26	3	10	13	10	19
POLICE	26	1	10	15	10	18



## The gurudakshina

**B**UY two biscuits and you can avail your self of top-class soccer coaching. Don't believe? Then turn up at the East Bengal ground one morning. There you will see the veteran Amal Dutta, the proud coach of the victorious East Bengal team, putting his boys to hard toil under his watchful eyes to sharpen their skills and initiate them to the higher and advanced techniques of modern football. The seasoned warhorses, some of whom have come back to the club they once played for after trying their lucks in other pastures and some who have lent their allegiance to the side for two consecutive seasons, do not need much individual attention, but the younger ones who have used the absence of the stars, busy preparing for the Asiad at various camps, to good advantage the case is a bit different. What they depend on most is lengthy sessions of practice closely supervised by the coach, with the difficult lessons being demonstrated by himself.

That's a task a bit too troublesome for the top boss of a big team like East Bengal. Apart from training his boys, he has to give his serious thoughts to many other important matters like determining the strategy of his side for the ensuing engagements and utilising the pool of talent at his disposal properly by selecting those players who are in form and likely to be most useful for keeping the team on the winning spree.

But Amal Dutta seldom balks at the task. The most familiar sight for a frequenter to the East Bengal ground is an untiring Amal putting the junior boys, especially the goalkeepers Tapas Chakraborty and Tarun Dutta, to various difficult exercises to help them

grow into mature footballers. The guru and the disciples continue to work hard for long hours. Only, at times the guru demands a strange gurudakshina—two biscuits for every half an hour. If the shishyas fail to supply them, the coach is off. Empty stomach serves no purpose is the last piece of advice from the guru as he slowly walks back into the

club tent.

But then, that is actually to mean that the boys have had enough practice and now is the time for them to turn up at the breakfast table.

## The real story

**A**LL the three big clubs—Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan S C had tried to fix up each of



their league engagements and were successful in most cases. That is the real story of our much-talked-about Calcutta soccer league in a nutshell," commented a worried Ashok Mitra, the secretary of the Indian Football Association, the body in control of the game in this State. "We are really very concerned about this growing obnoxious practice and we have got to stop it by any means," he added.

But how? That was the question of this scribe who was in serious doubt if the Association does really have any power or plans to do anything effective. And Mr. Mitra took great pains to look confident and provide a definite answer: "Shortly we are going to bring the matter before the Rules Revision Committee of the Association so that the malaise can be cured through some important changes in the rules of the league and shield tournaments. The only way open for us, I think, is to make the competitions tougher by reducing the number of teams participating in the championship. It might mean creating a super division, which could put an end to this problem, because in that case the teams will be more reluctant to give away points to their superior rivals, as their existence on the scene will then be at stake."

Good idea, but will it finally materialise? Doubtful, because it can be predicted for sure that there will be no dearth of people in the Association who will go to any length to sabotage the move from inside. The football world of Calcutta today can hardly be distinguished from the world of politics. Therefore, it is an oversimplification to hope that these murky dealings will be stopped so easily just by making a few changes in the rules and regulations of the tournaments under the control of IFA.

It was again Shankar Adhikari who took the initiative of manning the attack and the Sammilani boys found themselves in constant trouble on the right flank. Shankar gave his rivals a harrowing time but it was just the opposite after lemon time. There was no Shankar as coach Navemuddin had substituted him for Latif, and the Sammilani side must have sighed with relief because Latif proved to be ineffective and frequently slipped.

Other than Shankar Adhikari no other player performed well and it was this winger who helped Somenath Banerjee net the first goal, after having missed a couple of sitters. Three minutes after the goal in the first half, medio Debasis Mishra created a chance for Shankar with a fine through pass, but thanks to the anticipation displayed by Aikya goalkeeper Amal Ghosh, the dangerous situation was averted.

Despite the fact that Aikya stoppers, Subrata Bhattacharya and Kanon Sarkar, ward off a number of chances, they could not prevent

second goal two minutes from the long whistle.

**L**AST year, it was Rajasthan Club that kept everyone on tenterhooks when they were the only side that stood between Mohammedan Sporting and the long awaited League title. This year, too, the same outfit troubled the black-and-whites but once again to no avail.

Rajasthan has repeatedly given the Big Three anxious moments and this season they were able to wrest points from both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan. This must have sent shivers up Sporting's spines. In fact, Rajasthan could have achieved their ambition had referee Ajay Lahiri not overlooked a penalty against the home side. Barely three minutes after lemon time Prabir Mazumdar made a solo effort from the midfield and penetrated the deep defence. In such a desperate situation Anudeb Das made a hard tackle from his stopper's position inside the box and there could be no second opinion as

meant—a penalty. But what was most surprising was that Lahiri, though he was so close to the incident, failed to see it. When asked about this after the match he said that he was not too sure about it.

Playing to a capacity crowd in conditions after a short spell, it was expected that Mohammedan S.C. would give a better display but if the reverse proved true instead. In the absence of Majid, Shankar Adhikari proved to be a unique replacement. His performance against Rajasthan did not exactly set the crowd ablaze though he can be credited with doing the spadework for the all-important goal 10 minutes after the breather. He managed to lob the ball in from the opponents' danger zone for Somenath Banerjee to head in. Rajasthan goalkeeper Amit Guha had no chance of saving the shot but he played a mature game under the bar and earned generous applause when he made a couple of brilliant saves.

The first session concentrated on midfield play. Though the home team had the edge, it was the visiting side which gave a better account of themselves. Except for a few minutes into the latter half Mohammedan S.C. looked a weary lot and it was at this juncture that Prabir Mazumdar and former Mohammedan S.C. player Subhas Roy troubled the deep defence. Had it not been for Pratap Ghosh's alert attitude the home team could have found themselves in a tricky situation. Take for instance, the case of Pratap Ghosh when a good shot from Subhas Pal a few minutes before the breather touched the post and went out. During the home team's attack it was worthwhile seeing Rajasthan's defenders Subhas Pal, Anupam Bagchi and Shyamal Ghosh, who kept their cool and matched the opposition on equal terms. No one can say that Rajasthan were bad losers but it can be said that Mohammedan S.C. managed to cross a stiff hurdle.

**A**LTHOUGH the outcome of the League has already been settled, Mohammedan Sporting still has to complete their remaining engagements. Their penultimate encounter with Sporting Union was just a formality and yet they displayed full confidence to trounce the rivals four nil, with Debasis Ray accounting for two and Uttam Chakraborty and Mani netting one each. Initially, the home team performed in a haphazard fashion but gradually settled down to give the crowd their money's worth.

Surprisingly, all the goals came after the breather, because the first-half movements were purposeless and individual brilliance was absent. But after resumption Mohammedan S.C. wore a different look altogether and it was a pitiable sight when the Sporting Union defence was literally ransacked by Somenath Banerjee, Latifuddin and Debasis Ray.

## Police A.C. eat humble pie

**E**VERYBODY who is familiar with Calcutta soccer will tell you that, in reality, there are two faces to the local league. First, of course, comes the tussle for the League honours. But there is also another battle—the contest among the lesser teams to avoid relegation. Undeniably, the fray has not always been clean. Manipulation is common on the Maidan, depending on the quantum of influence and the money which can yield results.

When East Bengal beat arch rivals Mohun Bagan in their crucial league tie it became clear that the former side was sitting confidently in the driver's seat and were well on the way to regaining the title. But what about the lower half? And which junior side was going to fall prey to manipulation? A stage comes during the league when one can form a picture as to which teams face the prospect of relegation to the Second Division. From this point on the normal course of premeditated matches take place and it is at this stage that the influence of the clubs in question is tested.

At one stage Barisha Sporting looked as if they would become the first victim of relegation, but when they realised this they took utmost precautions and survived. As the league proceeded the scene became more clear. Aikya Sammilani and Police A.C. were hard pressed to avoid demotion, but Bata was not in a very secure position either. It is quite difficult to predict the victim, but it is common knowledge that this

is preplanned. A section of the junior category—the syndicate—selects a side which will be relegated and one cannot help but notice that over the years, Police has been the side to suffer. Their fortunes have fluctuated regularly: relegation one year, promotion the next and then relegation again.

Aikya, the frustrated team which was in troubled waters was gradually being dragged out of the dumps by two untiring officials who command both influence and respect on the Maidan. Strange though it might seem, Aikya managed to snatch full points from both Calcutta Port Trust and Railway F.C. There was also controversy over Aikya's match against Rajasthan. The former team were leading when the floodlights went off because of loud-hedding and the game thus ultimately abandoned. So a victory against Kumartuli—after their defeat by Mohammedan S.C.—would ensure their status quo in the Senior Division. Finally, of course, they came out of the woods.

When Bata snatched vital points from Kidderpore, Police were in the doldrums. Bata just managed to scrape through but Police had to beat George Telegraph to remain in the tussle with Aikya. They lost the ultimate battle and will be seen once more in the Second Division next year. But there is nothing new about that any more.

SUBHASH SARCAR

# COUNT DOWN 10

## Frenzied race for Asiad tickets

**A**SIAD '82 has raced up on us. Those who had not quite realised it woke up to the fact when the tickets were first put on sale on Sunday, 1 August. The long queues at the nine sale centres in the capital and the numerous stories of disappointment drove home how badly they had underestimated the situation. Such a frenzied response must have gladdened the hearts of the much maligned men on the Special Organising Committee (SOC) of the Asian Games who had always been racing against time from the moment work began on the project about a year and a half ago.

At the same time they could not have helped a nervous feeling of urgency. Not that it had not been there before. For all the claims of work matching the schedule, they cannot deny that a great deal still remains to be done with the "dress rehearsals" in the shape of national meets, only a few weeks away. For example, seats were still to be fixed at the Indraprastha Stadium—a staggering 25,000 of them—when a Press party was taken there in early August.

But back to the tickets. The demand for them and especially for the opening ceremony exceeded all expectations. One is told the story of an affluent gentleman who, having failed to secure the highest prized ticket for the great day, flew over to Bombay to join the queue there early enough to avoid disappointment. He simply had to have that little document. The television screening of the spectacular 1980 Olympic ceremonies at Moscow and other stories about the well-remembered Misha have raised hopes of a memorable show at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on 19

November. Let us hope that our own Appu lives up to expectations when the time comes for him to show his paces.

In spite of all the assurances held out by the State Bank's Public Relations manager, former Test cricketer Vijay Mehra, that no bank man will be allowed to exploit his position as a selling agent to corner tickets, there have been angry complaints. But because it is always difficult to prove malpractices at ticket windows no newspaper has taken the risk of publishing names. However, it is already being said that a Rs 100 tickets for the opening ceremony is being quoted at eight times the named price.

Black marketing of tickets in sport and cinema is nothing new. It is a common experience at Test matches and soccer finals, here and abroad. To a certain extent it is also desirable, indicating as it does, the interest of the paying public in sport. Still, checks and deterrents have not only to be present but have also to be enforced.

The SOC cannot escape criticism on this score. No one is aware if it has set up any machinery to prevent malpractices in the distribution of tickets. Soon after the sale began *The Times of India*, in its prestigious 'Current Topics' column pointed out that fake tickets were already in circulation and rapped the Games' organisers for not alerting the public of the danger. It will not be a bad idea at all if responsible

members of the SOC themselves join the queues in incognito in future.

The paying public spending so much time in queues just to take a chance of getting a ticket cannot be expected to take kindly to announcements of concessions and privileges certain classes of people like our MPs, the majority of whom cannot tell a javelin from a hammer. But not a single person will be unsporting enough to quarrel with the minister who announced that a quota will be reserved for the construction workers without whose sweat, and even blood, the stadia and other structures would never have come up. How he plans to put his idea into practice is another matter?

At the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium alone 9,000 were at work in a single shift. No words or tickets can be adequate reward for their heroic labour whose harrowing experience at the hands of some unscrupulous contractors forms a sorry chapter in the Asiad '82 story. A more substantial gesture has to be devised to express the entire nation's gratitude to these unsung heroes.

While there is talk of certain privileged groups of people getting then quota of tickets, we seem to have completely forgotten our old heroes. At least every former Asian Games or Olympic athlete deserves a special invitation.



TIMEKEEPERS  
WATCHES  
JEWELLERY



Watch Division



Timekeepers to  
the Nation



**Hunt**

**QUARTZ ELECTRONIC WATCHES**

If you've the inclination, we've the time!  
The exact time!!

Hussain played well and kept the forward line busy along with substitute Uttam Chakraborty while Moidul Islam and Anudeb Das performed neatly without a single lapse on their part.

Though the first session was lack lustre Mohammedan S.C. had a chance of scoring when Somenath had only goalkeeper Lagan Banerjee to beat but shot straight at him. However, barely two minutes after resumption Debasis Ray made no mistake off a free bound from the cross piece. Opposing striker Biren Das retaliated when he took a prompt shot at goal which Nasir Ahmed failed to grasp properly but Moidul was in time to save the situation. That was the only opportunity that Sporting Union got. The second goal was scored through a fine Latif Somenath combination when Latif centred and Debasis Ray netted his second goal. The latter was sitting pretty for a hat trick but that eluded him as Uttam sent in a sudden shot a few minutes later. The home side could have added a few more to their goal tally but for erratic shots. The final goal was scored off a defender when Mani made an attempt five minutes before the final whistle.

**A**FTER being down by a goal against George Telegraph the home side restored parity 22 minutes after half time when Uttam Chakraborty's fine header off a beautiful centre from Shankar Adhikari found the net. The performance Mohammedan S.C. dished out to the capacity crowd was unimpressive. Other than Shankar Adhikari and media Debasis Mishra, no one else can claim to have played well.

Instead George earned applause for a better display. But the goal they netted was partly due to the fault of goalkeeper Gantam Ghosh. Had he been more alert he could have saved the situation. Apurba Choudhury's high centre to Md. Mukim found the ball enter the net from the inner edge of the far post. That was in the 29th minute. But a minute before the final whistle Mukim missed the match winner. Striker Pranab Bose played extremely well and his well wishes came to see if he could become the top scorer but for no rhyme or reason the George coach Shankar Sarkar substituted him. Perhaps the coach wanted to strengthen the defence. Since the match had little impact it was unnecessary to put Bose on the sideline and ironically his absence saw the home side obtain the equaliser. Bratin Sarkar gave wingback Musheer Ahmed a harrowing time as long as he was there. Although Mohammedan S.C. had better share of the exchanges it was the rival team that displayed a better understanding. However, Mohammedan S.C. should thank their stars for drawing the last match to take their tally of points to 41 from 26 outings.

## NATIONAL ROWING

# Tamil Nadu best

**T**HE Madras Boat Club, which stands on the winding Adyar river wore a festival look as it prepared to host the sixth National Rowing Championships, in the city from September 3 to 5. The whole atmosphere was beautiful and serene with calm waters, blue skies and lovely sunshine—an ideal combination for rowing. But the actual fare provided was far from colourful or even competitive.

But then maybe it was wrong to expect this to be a high class competition. In fact, it might seem incongruous that the three-day meet was held at a time when the fifth and final camp for the country's Asian Games rowing probables was in full swing at Jaipur. The national did in fact, offer the opportunity to rowers—men—who could not offer themselves for selection during the Asian coaching camps for various reasons—to reveal their talents so that they are among the probables.

This itself should have provided enough incentive for the participants to go all out. But sadly they were not up to the mark. No fresh records were set, partly understandable since the majority were not the country's best in the sport. But there were a few outstanding rowers and even they failed to break the barriers. The reason for this was that both the wind and water conditions were far from conducive to fast rowing. However, it was certainly not for want of trying that the competitors could not set better timings. If they could not overcome these obstacles, they smilingly and cheerfully took them in their stride.

Seventy-four competitors from seven teams—Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Corps of Engineers (Pune) and Combined Universities—took part in the meet. But from the beginning all pointed to a battle royal between Tamil Nadu and Bengal, the two top states as far as this sport is concerned, in all the events. And so it was proved when at the end of the penultimate stage, Bengal had entered five finals and Tamil Nadu all six. On the final day, Tamil Nadu asserted their supremacy in no uncertain terms and won four finals. Bengal won one and the remaining went to Indian Universities. This was thoroughly in keeping with Tamil Nadu's rising stature in the sport. They have made giant strides and there can be little doubt that Tamil Nadu is the No. 1 State in rowing in the country.

Almost every final promised to be a keen affair. But then for some reason or other, all the events ended in anti climax fashion. The most glaring

example was the open sculls final between Vikram Venkataraman of Tamil Nadu and Sumant Dhumra of Bengal. Vikram, a 20 year old final year student of Loyola College, was the defending champion while Dhumra was the winner of the event in 1977 and 1978. And as such it was a contest that one looked forward to with more than keen interest. Initially, it did have the looks of a thriller. Dhumra (32), an experienced sculler held a slender lead at first but nearing the 500 metric mark, Vikram caught up and from then on it was neck and neck going for some time.

At about the 600 metric mark, Dhumra in a desperate bid to break away hit a marker buoy. His outboard stuck in the wires below the buoy and trying to pull it away he lost control, strayed off course and hit Vikram's boat. Defeated and fearing a protest that would go in Vikram's favour, he gave up. Vikram sensed that it was now a one man race, also slowed down and cruised past the finishing line in a timing of four minutes 41.8 seconds—a timing that was poorer than the winner's in the junior sculls. Vikram, a bright and talented youngster, was actually in the camp for the Asian Games probables, but had to drop out because of typhoid. This meet proved that Vikram had recovered considerably and was a fine sculler.

Tamil Nadu lost the other two open events—the pair and the four. In the pair, the Indian Universities duo of M. S. Aswin (Pune) and G. Narayanan (Madras University) scored an easy triumph over Humayun Jamil and Ravi Shankar in a timing of three minutes 30 seconds. The fours provided more interesting competition. Initially, it seemed level going between Tamil Nadu and Bengal. But nearing the halfway mark the Bengal crew settled down to some systematic and serene rowing while Tamil Nadu started splashing badly. Ultimately, it was a comfortable victory for Bengal by two lengths in a timing of three minutes 47.8 seconds.

But if Tamil Nadu were beaten in two of the three open events, their supremacy was unchallenged in the three junior events. And epitomising this performance was Zarwan Patel. The 18-year-old Sherwood Hall student, obviously a brilliant prospect won three golds. Zarwan was a member of the Tamil Nadu junior fours crew that won the event beating Bengal easily in a timing of three minutes 24 seconds.

**PARTAB RAMCHAND, Madras**

## Regional round-up

### CALCUTTA

#### LMOB, yet again

**L**A Martine Old Boys added another feather to their cap when they won the annual one-day seven a-side tournament played at the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club grounds. Earlier they had won the Calcutta Cup to bag the regular 15 a-side tournament. Twelve teams took part in the seven-a-side tournament which was played for the Georgiadis Cup. As in all seven a-side matches there were only two players from each team in the line outs and three in the scrum. The most important feature of seven a-side is fast running and the ability to play pin sessional rugby.

In the first match of the day a young Armenian school side could not match the heavier Police team and went down 6-0. Other first round winners were the LMOB 'A' and 'B' teams, Tigers 'A', Tigers 'C' and Armenians 'A'. The last named brushed aside the challenge of the hosts C & F from whom a great deal was expected.



Armenians and LMOB 'A' were given byes into the semi final after their first round victories. One wonders how the committee makes out the draw. How can sides be given byes after playing first round? This does not conform to the rules of any sport and byes should be given only in the first round. Nevertheless, a young and fit Tigers 'A' made it to the semi-final taking care of Calcutta

Police, while the Tigers 'C' were no match for the LMOB 'B' team. The LMOB 'A' beat their 'B' team to make it as expected, into the final where they met Armenians who qualified after beating the Tigers 'A'.

The final was a complete disappointment with the Armenians being outclassed by LMOB. K. C. Lee intercepted an attempted kick to touch and took the ball on his chest to score a try and open the account for LMOB (4-0). Babul McLeod, who in this correspondent's opinion is the best kicker in India, made no mistake with the conversion as he also did after tries were scored by Richard Hooper and Davy Martin. The final score read 18-0, thus bringing to an end an interesting but one sided day of rugby.

DEE KOBRIEN

#### AAAWB grounded

**I**t is common knowledge that the Amateur Athletic Association of West Bengal has no ground of its own thus, even when it wants to hold coaching camps, officials have to look outside Calcutta. To prepare the athletes for the trial games in Delhi the AAWB had a screening test at Kalyani where 30 athletes were selected out of the best 150 in the State. The final camp was held at Durgapur's Nehru Stadium—the venue of the 1973 Nationals and also the tentative venue for the 21st Inter State Athletics in January-February next year—in collaboration with Alloy Steel Plant for the first time. There, the secretary of the association and the treasurer of the AAFL, Mr. Arun Banerjee, hit out at the State Government for not providing a ground for the association during the eight-day camp opening ceremony. The moot question is how long is the AAWB going to be at the mercy of well-wishers? This is the basic reason that the athletes have very little scope for improvement.

But no one seems to care about the athletes and it is all the more pathetic that they practise on the side of the tram tracks. Strange as it might seem, they are chased away by Mounted Police with the argument that the lush green turf is spoilt. This is both frustrating for the athletes and embarrassing for the association. Accordingly, the State unit made several pleas to the government and police to provide a suitable area but to no avail. Ironically, the plea too was recommended by the State Sports Council. It is fervently hoped that the Sports Minister Mr. Subhas Chakraborty will come to the rescue of the association.

How much the Sports Ministry has done thus far is anybody's guess. To encourage athletes many State Governments have announced attractive awards—and this has greatly boosted their morale for their preparations for the Asiad. What about the West Bengal Government? It has yet to set an example. It is a shame that a poor State association like the AAWB has to volunteer to announce cash awards for those athletes who make it to the Asiad. To start with, Rs. 3001 per participant is not that bad and the State Government should hang its head in shame. Perhaps one can expect that Bengal's athletes will go the whole hog at Delhi so that they can find a place in the national team for the Asiad. But there are some doubts because the qualifying mark set by the association was fourth position of the Calcutta Inter-State meet as the Durgapur camp was held off season.

#### Why Bengal hockey is fading

**B**ASKING in past glory can be very damaging and the Indian Hockey Federation has done just that. Instead of merely deciding on the dates of various major tournaments the federation has a lot more to do to drag hockey out of the dumps. This is the opinion of Mr. Moloy Kumar Basu, a council member of the Bengal Hockey Association and an advocate by profession.

He feels that the sport should be popularised at the school, college and zonal levels. There should be no piecemeal work if we are to regain our stature at the international level. It is sad but true that the IHF has done precious little in this regard. Look at cricketers and footballers and gauge for yourself the benefits that have gone their way.

Compared to these two popular games, hockey in West Bengal has always been treated in a stepmotherly way. As it is, hockey players get fewer incentives and to make matters worse, they are often given the impression that the BHA is disinterested when it comes to helping the players in general. Then again, there are about ten national umpires—and some of them are really capable of handling big matches—but they have not derived much from the game. Indeed, seldom have these umpires been called to do duty at national championships. Yet it was Bengal that founded the national umpires' panel in 1951. Mr. Basu raps out that the IHF only tones down when the question of collecting payment arises. As a matter of fact,



there were a number of occasions when the IHF and the BHA came into direct confrontation with each other.

But the BHA also has to set its house in order. At the moment the condition is rather deplorable. There is a distinct lack of coordination among the affiliated members. That is not all. Elections have not been held for the last two years following a court injunction. Finally, it has failed to live up to its former reputation because the association is not well-off financially.

Mr Basu, who is a fine sportsman, represented East Bengal, Mohommadan Sporting and Sporting Union in first division cricket from 1948 to 1962, and became a BHA council member in 1974 when requested by former secretary Santosh Ganguly and Sidhu Dutta. Bengal has produced many Olympians between the 1928 Amsterdam Games and the 1952 Helsinki Games but thereafter it faded into oblivion.

"Hockey today is not popular in this State and whatever popularity exists is due to top teams participating in the Beighton Cup. This premier competition is now waning fast and needs to be given a shot in the arm. Previously the winners were from outstation but presently it is centred on the Big Three, especially East Bengal and Mohun Bagan," said the senior advocate.

Strangely enough, the gate receipts from the Beighton Cup do not exceed Rs 5,000. Since hockey is a highly technical game it therefore cannot gain the same popularity as football or cricket and to foster it efforts must be made at the grassroots level.

In the past, English medium schools would take part in the league and Beighton Cup but now there is only one, Khalsa Boys School. Then again, schools do not bother to imbibe the hockey spirit any more and efforts should be made to revive the old image. The sports council could help out in this regard. The council should provide free hockey gear and adequate refreshments to poor players both in the city and the districts. Mr Basu strongly feels that outstation players should be discouraged from playing for big teams in Calcutta. Transfers too were often illegal and irregular.

Past stars should volunteer to coach and guide talented players. As an added incentive, cash prizes should be awarded to outstanding players in the league. The council member felt, adding that junior teams which perform well and behave themselves should also be eligible for the prize. Lastly, serious thought should be given to improving umpiring standards. Selection of a player should be based on points he receives from his performances in the league while misbehaviour will call for deduction of points.

As a member of the league sub-

committee earlier, Mr Basu has had a lot of bad experiences with regard to decisions which to a great extent have allowed the players to indulge in rough play leading to ugly manhandling of the umpires and the game itself. The BHA will have to deal with such elements sternly if the pioneers are to come to the fore again.

SUBHASH SARKAR

## DELHI

### Garware basketball

At the first signs of a let up in the monsoon, basketball activity in Delhi picked up. While men's basketball is dominated by 'departmental' teams, the college teams hold sway in the women's game. Jesus and Mary College made a great start to the year by winning the Garware tournament, beating holders St Stephen's 42-39 in a keen final at the CRPF. Hawa Singh (right) lying to check Signal's Narendra Singh in the final.



spacious modern school auditorium where the tournament was shifted at its final stages after the preliminaries were completed on "open" courts at Delhi University.

With this win the JMC girls created a flutter in Delhi's basketball circles, for St Stephen's, over the years, had built up a strong team. Till JMC snatched the trophy from them, the St Stephen's girls had not been beaten in any major local basketball tournament for a couple of seasons. But JMC need not have felt flattered by their success. They richly deserved it, with Priya (11), Tehluna (11), Ritu Singh (8) and Sahana (8) playing their hearts out. For St Stephen's, A Varkey and A Sharma put up a gallant fight against their inspired opponents who wiped off a first half deficit of 16-26 to draw level at 35 all at the end of the regulation time before going on to win in the extra period.

The men's final, featuring two of the Delhi's 'giants' also saw the dethroning of champions as AHQ Signals took over from CRPF. As in the women's final, a mere three point margin (71-69) separated the teams at the finish. But here the game was more evenly spread out. It was 24-23 in favour of the holders at the 15th minute, before the holders pulled away to lead 39-32 at half time. Ranha Singh, an Asian Games probable, started in the Signals' triumph with a personal contribution of 33 points. V N Kuriy was the top scorer for CRPF with 30 points. But he had to retire eight minutes from the end, having collected his quota of fouls. The final minutes were truly exciting. The teams were tied at 61, then at 63 and again at 67 when Signals pulled to 71 and CRPF to 69.

### Bumpy track

To the cyclists of the Railways went the first opportunity to try out under actual competitive conditions at the Yamuna velodrome, venue of the Asian Games cycling events. One regrets to say that their experience was hardly a flattering certificate for the builders. The Railway cyclists, among whom were more than one international, found the track 'bumpy' in stretches and not conducive to speed. But this was not unexpected. Several weeks ago, Madan Mohan, a former national champion who has shifted home from Delhi to Bombay, had made the same observations. Obviously, he had not been taken very seriously. If the surface on the curves is not smoothened out, accidents cannot be ruled out.

The railway cyclists were taking part in the Inter Railway championships. The spotlight on the first day of the two-day meet was on 23-year-old Ravinder Singh Nanda who won the 1,000 metres time trial in one minute 17.5 seconds against



drop-out from the Asian Games training camp for probabilities, Ravinder Singh blamed the track for his slow timing. The national record is 1:13.9 in the name of Satnam Singh Mann.

Northern Railway cyclists were again in the forefront on the second day which they ended with 61 points to win the team championship. Southern Railway fell way behind with 34 points. Southern were able to make some impression through the efforts of K. N. Gopal, a former international. Gopal, who won the 1,000 metres massed start, also starred in the winning Southern combination in the 1,600 time trials (2:14.0).

For all the gallant riding of Gopal, it was Ravinder Nanda who was the man of the championships, if such a title were there to be awarded. After winning the 1,000 metres time trial, he followed up with victories in the 1,000 metres sprint and 4,000 metres individual pursuit, before rounding up with a ride in Northern's winning 4,000 metres pursuit team.

### Vaswani Irresistible

WITH the New Delhi Municipal Committee's Talkatora Indore Stadium reserved for the Asian Games, the St Columbas School hall has become the capital's temporary

time ago. Sudh Vaswani had met with defeat at the hands of Nitin Puri in the Delhi Table Tennis Association Inter-club league. But when the two clashed in the men's singles final of the St Columbas tournament, Vaswani took his revenge in straight sets at 21-17, 21-13, 21-19. It was an upset, but for those who are familiar with a certain streak in Vaswani's nature, it was nothing to be very surprised about.

Excelling in tossed, sharply spun serves, Vaswani ran through the first game in barely eight minutes and the second in only six. Puri put up a better fight in the third game, but eventually found Vaswani irresistible.

The women's singles finalists, Meena Bora and the top seeded, Tina Sudan, were too defensive in their approach to hold the spectators' interest. The second seeded Bora went on to win the uninspiring fight at 21-19, 23-21, 21-17.

Both the boys' and girls' singles finals were extended affairs. Both Rajan Vaish and Rajat Kumar showed a refreshingly aggressive approach in the boys' final, Vaish winning at 21-15, 18-21, 26-24, 21-16. Deepshikha Soni won the girls' crown defeating Anuradha Dhawan 21-12, 20-22, 21-17 and 21-12.

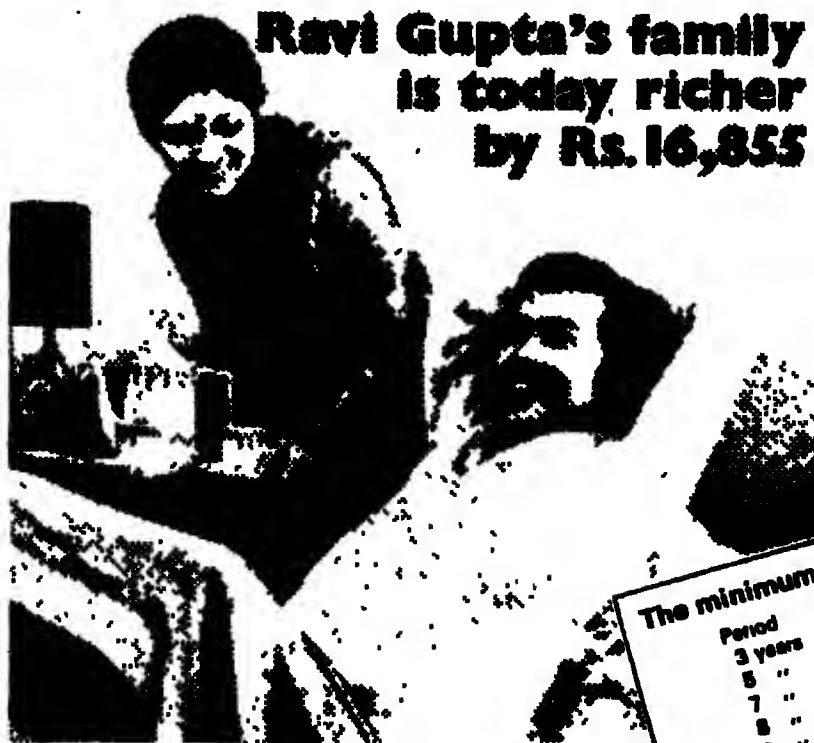
## BOMBAY

### Court rules swimming

SWIMMING in Maharashtra is controlled by an ad hoc committee, appointed by the law courts. This is because there are two rival bodies that are laying claims to enjoying a majority in the State. The ad hoc committee comprises nine members, three each from the warring factions and three neutrals.

That the meetings of the committee are not smooth is common knowledge but the extent to which objections and protests are raised on minor issues borders on the ridiculous. All in all, it is an unenviable task for the neutrals who have to keep peace between the two sides. So delicate is this task of balancing that no matter which way an issue is decided there is always going to be the allegation of favouritism towards one of the factions.

Last week, the ad hoc committee had to select the team for the forthcoming Open Nationals to be held in New Delhi in mid-September. Like at other times in the past, the trials were scheduled at the MGMO but one of the factions raised the objection that the selection trials cannot be held at the MGMO pool because it is three inches short of the specified length.



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How is that this had never been brought up in previous years? The mystery will remain! But rather than be accused of being unfair, the neutrals decided to hold the trials at the Navy Pool, which is at the southern end of Bombay. Never were those three matches more important.

HARESH MUNWANI

## MADRAS

### Titles for S Railway

It has been a busy week and almost every sport has been featured in newspaper headlines. Football, hockey, cricket, swimming, basketball, badminton and table tennis are the sports that have received prominent coverage here over the past week.

The spotlight has been shared by hockey and swimming. Southern Railway retained the senior division hockey league title for the fourth year in succession when they defeated Central Excise by two goals to one in their final match. They finished with 15 points from nine games. Integral Coach Factory, with 14 points from their nine encounters, finished second.

Southern Railway also won the water polo title in the State Aquatic meet which concluded over the weekend. They beat others 22-3 in a hopelessly one-sided final. But the main honours of the three-day meet went to the women who set up 12 records in the 12 events. The star turn was provided by Javida Begum, a pupil of Rnsary Matric School and Rama Narasimhan, a student of Ethiraj College. The two lasses set new marks in every event they took part in and in every style of the sport. In the process they also set up a healthy contest for the individual title. Ultimately, Javida won in a close finish, notching up 64 points to Rama's 61. Muralidharan of Southern Railway won the men's individual title with 56 points.

Former National Junior champion R. Hari is in good form this season. Traditionally a brilliant, but erratic player, Hari seems to have steadied his game of late, and has won a couple of good titles, including the Southern India Zonal Championship. Over the weekend, he won the Don Bosco table tennis title defeating V. Chandramouli, in four games. It was a fine match between two young attacking players, but Hari always seemed the better player. Radha Ram outlasted Kanchana Kumar after five games in a battle between two married women for the women's title. Also going to five games was the juniors final between R. Vineth and Narain Appinath, which was won by the former in five games.

For all the deeds of Javida Begum and Rama Narasimhan in the State Aquatic meet, the sports personality

of the week was certainly Deepak Purohit. The teenaged engineering student surprised everyone by grabbing a treble in the State badminton championships. First he got the better of the experienced Jo Jo Kunjupalu 15-12, 15-12 in a well-contested men's singles final. Then he and G. M. Giridharan won the doubles with a 15-1, 15-12 win over S. Agarwal and Jo Jo. Finally he completed his treble by claiming the mixed doubles title too. He and Neera Sachdev comfortably beat G. M. Giridhar and Devi Palaniswamy 15-5, 15-9. He won the three titles in the space of a couple of hours and is obviously a youth of great talent, skill and boundless energy.

### Venkat bags 6 for 74

THE cricket season in the city has gathered momentum. The Buchi Babu invitation tournament semi-finals were played during the week. Mafatalal Sports Club, Bombay, winners of the shield and Tamil Nadu Cricket Association President's XI, virtually the State side, were to meet in the three-day final, which commences on September 5. The semi-final between TNCA President's XI and Hyderabad Cricket Association, which was also virtually a State side, was a keen affair, with there being a



battle royal for the first innings lead. The home team led off with a total of 325. Srikanth made a typical 60 and then useful knocks came from T. E. Srinivasan (56) and M. O. Patthasathiy (75), who shared a century stand for the fourth wicket. The latter, in fact, was included only on the morning of the match because Jabbar was unwell. Hyderabad remained in the hunt till the second evening when they were 161 for three. But Venkataraghavan, who

has really been bowling very well this season, slowly wrested the initiative for the home team, capturing six wickets for 74.

The other semi-final between Mafatalal and holders Indian Airlines was hopelessly one-sided. Mafatalal scored 372 and when Airlines were dismissed for 182 on the morning of the final day, the latter conceded the match.

Actually Mafatalal had a good batting practice against the TNCA XI in the quarter-final. The TNCA XI constituted the second rank of State players, mostly juniors. TNCA XI could score only 209 in the opening match of the tournament, with left-handed R. Madhavan making 90. Then Mafatalal batted from the first evening to the third morning, hammering 528 runs for seven declared. Chandrakant Pandit, the captain, hit 214 out of the first double century in the tournament since it was revived in 1967. In the remaining time, TNCA XI scored 254 for seven, with K. Srinath, younger brother of Test cricketer K. Srikkanth, helping him self to an attacking 110.

The standard of play has slowly picked up in the football Cup football tournament. This is only to be expected as the semi-final stage has been almost completed. Madras football Association XI and Integral Coach Factory have already made it to the penultimate rounds after having topped their respective quarter-final league clusters.

The State-level basketball tournament is also entering the home stretch. State Bank and Indian Overseas Bank, joint favourites for the title, made it to the semi-final. While State Bank beat Madras Port Trust 80-69, IOB just about got the better of the hosts K. Leela John Memorial Club 78-73.

PARTAB RAM CHAND

## BANGALORE

### Ubhayakar retains title

NARENDRA UBHAYAKAR (State Bank of Mysore) retained the men's singles title of the State Badminton Championships, which were held at the Bowling Institute, Bangalore. He overwhelmed K. P. Vasanth Kumar (Syndicate Bank, Manipal) 15-3, 11-5, 15-4. Prabhakar Shetty of Mangalore beat Kulvan Shankar 15-8, 17-4, 17-14 to bag the boy's title and last year's ladies' champion Sheela Das made short work of Sheela Janardhan 11-6, 11-5.

Narendra Ubhayakar has been named captain of the 8-member team for the inter-State and inter-zonal championships to be held at New Delhi from September 14-19. (This was Narendra's third straight victory of the season, having lost the first to Vasanth.)

## TT for deaf and dumb

**F**OR the first time, a national table tennis championships for the deaf was held here. The 22-year-old A K Asha of Karnataka was the star performer. She completed a deserving treble by winning the singles, the doubles (partnering G Vasantha) and the mixed doubles (combining with brother A K Umesh) titles.

Earlier in the singles, she gave a tremendous display to down Nirmala of Andhra Pradesh. The score, 21-5, 21-11, 21-10. In the team event, Maruthi Prasada and Ramkishna Raju were the main contributors towards Andhra Pradesh's 5-2 win over Karnataka, enabling their State to bag the team's championships.

## Laurels for Bangalore

**B**ANGALORE city captured the overall championships shield at the State-level Women's Sports Festival at Bellary, with an overall tally of 86 points. They also claimed the gymnastics and athletic team championships. The swimming honours went to the State Swimming champ—Lorraine Verghese of Bangalore, who tallied 26 points. Kanchana of Bangalore bagged the individual athletic shield with a score of 11 points.

## Golf tourney

**T**HE 10th Bangalore Golf Club Open Championships got under way on Sept 2. The 72 hole 4 day event is one of the most prestigious golf tournaments in the country and has attracted some of the big names of the game. The Bombay-based British professional and defending champion, Phillip Pilling, was the favourite of the tournament which has a prize money of Rs. 30,000.

The tournament is open to professionals, amateurs and caddies and has attracted a total of 67 entries. Kulkarni Electric company are the sponsors of the tournament.

## New motor sports club

**A** NEW motor sports club—The Indian Automotive Sports Club—has zoomed into the scene. The president of the club, Ravi Gupta (who was the former secretary of the KSMC and the former president of the Federation of Motor Sports Club of India) stated that the club was formed with the intention of giving the sport a new impetus and encouraging fresh talent.

## Inter-university chess

**B**OMBAY, Madurai Kamaraj, IIT, BMadras, Osmania and Patna scored the maximum of 4 points in the first round of the 18th All-India Inter-university Chess Championships, held at the Karnataka

Regional Engineering College, Suratkal.

Patna, which has national star, Yusuf Hassan, playing for them, were awarded a walkover by the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, since the team arrived late, having lost their luggage on train journey between Jhansi and Bhopal.

## Bewildering

**B**EWILDERING indeed, are the ways of our sports officials. This time, Karnataka's No 1 table tennis player G K Vishwanath was the scapegoat of the antics of these officials. His name was mysteriously missing in the list of 25-probables for the Asian trial games to be held at the capital. Vishwanath finished 3rd and 5th in the South and West Zonal Championships, respectively. Since the criteria for selection were the performances of a player in two zones, his exclusion was even more questionable.

## Volleyball Federation meeting

**T**HE executive committee and general body of the Volleyball Federation of India met in Bangalore on August 29, under the chairmanship of the president Sivanti Adityan. The purpose of the meeting was to draw up the programmes for the Asian. The draw of the Asian would be held in the first week of November, in the presence of Yim Chairman of the Asian Sports Organising Committee from Seoul and Ahmeda, vice-president of the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC). A 14 member Indian team would be picked at the end of September for the Asian. A USSR team's tour of the country or a tour of an Indian team to that country was also on the agenda. Adityan, admitted that the Indian team could only hope for a bronze and no more at the Asian.

SHANTI MOHANRANGAM

## TRIVANDRUM

### Associations merge

**L**IKE our political parties and organisations, sports associations and federations in Kerala are in the process of splitting and fragmenting, resulting in groups and splinter groups. However, something good has prevailed upon our athletes belonging to the Kerala Athletic Welfare Association and Kerala Athletic Association. The two athletic welfare associations have merged into a single body recently. Olympian Suresh Babu is the president of the new association. Other office-bearers are as follows—Vice presidents: Mr M C Verghese, C M Joseph, M V Chandy, Secretary: P Sasidharan Nair, Joint secretaries: Mr K C

Suresh Umar and Mr Jajeeb Mohamed, Treasurer: P Javaprakash. Ex-MLA Mr K C Yamadevam will be the patron of the association.

## Welfare fund for sportsmen

**T**HE Kerala Sports Council has finalised a scheme to constitute a welfare fund for sportsmen and to provide them with insurance cover. This was announced by Mr V G Govindan Nair, Vice president of the Kerala Sports Council. Meanwhile, the Council has also approached the Government seeking effective arrangements to retain talented sportsmen within Kerala by providing them with suitable jobs. The Council intends to send a team to Delhi to see the Asian Games consisting of Arjuna Award winners belonging to Kerala, sportsmen who won places in the national meets last year and those who attended the Asian camps but did not make the grade in the final selections. Members of the Sports Council, secretaries of district Sports Councils and one coach from each discipline have also been included to go to the Games. The scheme is under the consideration of the Kerala Government.

## Legal games

**T**HE power hungry politicians leading the two rival factions of the Kerala Aquatic Association and both belonging to the ruling front in Kerala have now kicked their ball of controversy to the court of law. The suit was filed by Mr V Sukumar, secretary of the KAA led by Mr P K Velayudhan, MLA (Congress-A) against the rival faction of the association led by Mr P C George, MLA (Kerala Congress-J). Meanwhile, Trivandrum sub Judge P Parameswara Menon has adjourned the hearing of the suit.

Frenzied efforts are on for a reconciliation between the rival groups. The first round of talks has failed to produce any settlement. The move for conciliation was taken by Mr P C George, the president of the KAA. However, the second round of talks did not come off as Mr Velayudhan did not turn up.

The Kerala Sports Council, the supreme controlling authority of all sports associations in Kerala is a silent spectator at the hide and seek game played by the two rival factions. It looks as if the rules in its armoury are inadequate to tackle such situations arising out of a split. Unless it is armed with more teeth to tackle such problems, a council worth its name is in vain. The KSC should be converted into a statutory body with legislative sanction so that it could effectively intervene whenever the interests of sportsmen went by default. Then only it can uphold the integrity of sports in the State.

M P SURESH

## Spinning the ball clockwise

Edwards Stevens, popularly called "Lumpy," is considered a pioneer in the art of length bowling. Not only that, he was also "dead accurate" and caused many problems to even those batsmen who were quick footed and possessed hawk like eyesight. According to historians, Lumpy's peak year was 1775 when he bowled repeatedly "clean through the chapter house", as it was called then, those "stars of the first magnitude" he "walked through" the stumps and compelled the authorities to introduce the third stump.

Round shouldered and stockily-built, Lumpy was credited to bowl accurately till cows returned home. His run-up was as steady as his length was impeccable. It cannot be ascertained whether he bowled shooters by design, but he did bowl shooters more often than any other bowler could do in those days.

In his time Crowhurst was rated as the fastest under arm bowler. In the words of C. B. Fry, one of the celebrated cricket commentators, Crowhurst was so quick that his captain was obliged to post two long stops behind the wicketkeeper with a view to saving byes. Like against Harold Lawwood at his menacing best, many local outfits declined to play against him. Thomas Brett lacked in accuracy but was

said to be yet another bowler as fast as Lumpy.

According to historians, Lamborn initiated the art of spinning the ball clockwise, that is, from off to leg. Known as "the little farmer," he tended his father's sheep, and while so engaged, he bowled for long spells to help him gain accuracy. He played for Hambledon against all-England and his art of bowling baffled Kent and Surrey batsmen so much that they tumbled out in quick succession.

David Harris, a phenomenon bowler in those days, was once presented with a gold-laced hat for his magnificent bowling feats. According to historians, his bowling feat led to the coming of the term 'hat trick', though he was never credited with claiming three wickets off three successive deliveries.

Talking about

hat trick, there is an interesting question on it: how many hat-tricks will be counted if a bowler claims six wickets off six deliveries of the over? Though some may debate, it makes four hat-tricks, that is, 1-2-3, then 2-3-4, then 3-4-5 and then 4-5-6.

Mr G. D. Martineau, a famous cricket historian, says "David Harris did not, as some suppose, invent length bowling since length was already an important factor in the attack before he appeared on the scene, but he combined length, lift and leg spin in such a manner as to complete the process initiated by Lumpy and impose a new technique on batsmanship."

The art of wicketkeeping developed after players started wearing protections. While speed, swerve and accuracy and length

brought in the field specialist wicket keepers, like, Tom Sueter, William Yelden and George Lever, the bowlers in modern age credited with obtaining lift and bounce from the pitch have led to the introduction of thigh guard and helmet, which is also used by those who choose to field at positions called "suicidal areas."

One historian writes, "The 18th century wicketkeepers did not try to stop every ball, but would do so if there were some chances of a catch or stump ing or if the ball came reasonably within his compass. Awkward ones were generally left to long stop."

Here are some problems:

**Q:** There is an appeal for a catch. The batsman begins to return thinking that he is out. Can the umpire intervene and inform the batsman that he is not out?

**A:** The umpire is the custodian of cricket laws. If he is certain that the catch is not in order, he is well within his rights to intervene. The Law 27 (5) says "The umpire shall intervene if satisfied that a batsman, not having been given out, has left his wicket under a misapprehension that he has been dismissed."

**Q:** While the striker is out of his crease, the batsman's loosely tied strap is touching the ground within the popping crease. The wicketkeeper whips off the balls and appeals for stumping. Can he be given out?

**A:** No, since strap is part of his person and hence he is deemed to be home.

**Q:** The striker is given out lbw but the intercepted ball tumbles on to disturb the balls. What will be the decision?

**A:** The batsman is given out bowled under Law 30.

**Q:** Can a captain forfeit his team's second innings?

**A:** Yes, he can provided his decision to do so is notified to the opposing captain and umpires in sufficient time to allow 7 minutes rolling of the pitch, as stipulated in Law 10.

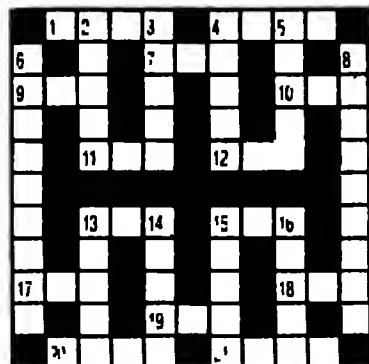
**Q:** Only nine minutes remain to lunch when the teams are driven indoors because of rain. When will the lunch recess start and when will the game be resumed?

**A:** Lunch starts immediately but the match will be resumed at the scheduled time.



# Crossword

MUDAR



- 1 Tend for a tennis player (4)
- 4 This Singh is a fine Indian golfer (4)
- 7 What a Headley and football manager Greenwood have in common (3)
- 9 Part of the anatomy afflicted when Botham was injured of Nayak (3)
- 10 Number of triple centuries hit by Bradman in Tests (3)
- 11 A heavy indication for a century mark (3)
- 12 This Khan is one of the top brass in Pakistani sport (3)
- 13 The supervisor of a football game called informally (3)
- 15 One of the circling Gregorys of Australia but not Jack (3)
- 17 This tennis stroke has a circle in between (3)
- 18 Initials of the woman tennis player who also wears spectacles (1 1 1)
- 19 Initials again this time of former Indian Captain Contractor (1 1 1)
- 20 The first name of Ratnapol Thailand sprinter who was once the fastest man in Asia (4)
- 21 What a female spectator did to Brijesh Patel against the West Indians at Wankhede Stadium when he was batting (4)

## DOWN

- 2 Little Miss Icicle better known as? (5)
- 3 To coach has a meaning synonymous with a railway engine (5)
- 4 Warwickshire cricketer Ferreira's first name ends with a century (5)
- 5 This Lord, who was very intimately associated with horse racing in England (5)
- 6 Scandinavian venue for the Olympics once (9)
- 8 A Czech table tennis player ends with a Swiss sport (1 8)
- 13 A bird for the first name of a Surrey and England bowler (5)
- 14 Rachael Heyhoe, more commonly known as? (5)
- 15 Laxity for a powerful Middlesex batsman (5)
- 16 Eddie of the tennis circuit (5)

Excellent 24-22, Good 21-19, Fair 18-16

## Koustava Guha, Calcutta

Q How many runs and centuries have Gavaskar and Vishwanath made in Tests so far?

A Gavaskar has made 6,792 runs in 78 Tests and Vishwanath 5,935 runs in 84 Tests, at the end of the three Test series versus England in England in 1982

## Bulu and Samita, Jamshedpur

Q What is the date of birth of Ravi Shastri? What is his batting and bowling record in Tests?

A Shastri was born on 27 May 1962. He has played in 12 Tests, 16 innings (thrice unbeaten) and scored 281 runs with two fifties, two zeroes and 93 being his highest score. As a bowler he has captured 31 wickets conceding 1,014 runs.

What does 'J' stand for in the name of R J Shastri?

A Jayadrith - his father's name

B Manoharpatnaik, Vishakhapatnam

Q Has Gopal Bose played in Tests for India?

A No, not so far

## Debashis Gupta Bakshi, Jalpaiguri

Q What is the Test batting and wicket-keeping record of Farokh Engineer?

A He has played 46 Tests, 87 innings, three times not out, 2611 runs, 121 as his highest score, 31.08 average, two centuries, 16 fifties, seven zeroes and 66 catches behind the stumps with 16 stumpings.

## Subrata Pratim Sinha Patra

Q What was the average of Sunil Gavaskar in the series against the West Indies in India in 1978-79?

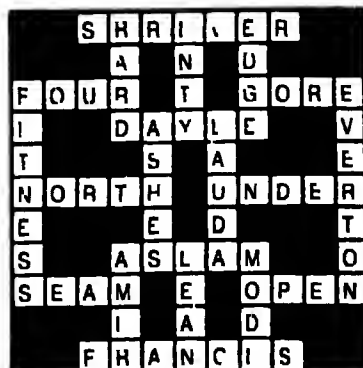
A 91.50

## Kanishka Chowdhury, Bombay

Q What is Imran Khan's Test bowling record?

A Before embarking on the tour of England in 1982 as a captain, Imran Khan had bowled 9529 balls, 311 maiden overs, conceded 4,197 runs and captured 158 wickets at the average of 26.56 with five or more wickets in an innings on 10 occasions and ten or more wickets in a match twice.

## SOLUTION 163



## Rajan Chopra, New Delhi

Q Who took Gavaskar's wicket in both the innings on his debut?

A Sunil Gavaskar on his debut against West Indies at Port-of-Spain in 1970-71, was caught by Clive Lloyd off J Norega in the first innings for 65 and was unbeaten with 67 in the second.

## R Venkatraman, New Delhi

Q Which is the first wicket India claimed in her official Test?

A Percy Holmes of England in the only Test against England at Lord's in 1932. Mohammed Nissar had the honour to capture this wicket.

## Rajan Chopra, New Delhi

Q What is the Test bowling record of John Snow of England?

A His record is 12021 balls, 411 maiden overs, 5387 runs, 202 wickets, 26.66 average, with eight times five or more wickets in an innings, ten or more wickets in a match once with seven for 40 as the best bowling figures in 49 Tests.

## Rajesh Khanna, Calcutta

Q What is the batting record of England's C B Fry?

A He played 26 Tests, 41 innings, three times not out, 1223 runs, 144 as his highest score, 32.18 average, two hundreds, seven fifties and three zeroes.

## Edward Kabir, Kurseong

Q Who has scored the maximum runs in a Test series?

A D G Bradman of Australia, who aggregated 974 in a five-Test series against England in England in 1930.

Q What is Ambar Roy's Test record?

A Four Tests, seven innings, 91 runs, 48 as highest score, 13.00 average with two ducks.

# Quiz

Rajil Ghosh

## QUESTIONS

Say which of the following statements are correct.

- 1 In handball the penalty line indicates the spot from which penalty kicks are taken.
- 2 In basketball a defensive rebound means a rebound made by defenders.
- 3 Swimsuits must be one-piece.
- 4 In badminton killing means winning rally with smash.
- 5 The first item of men's decathlon is long jump.
- 6 In gymnastics straddle means balancing on one leg.
- 7 Gumshield is the guard for teeth worn by boxers in mouth.
- 8 Game clock is the other name for the 30 second clock in basketball.
- 9 Trapping in hockey means deceiving an opponent.
- 10 In cyclo-cross only the race leader is entitled to put on the yellow jersey.

## ANSWERS

Correct are (1), (4), (7) and (10). Only (3) are correct.



**Miss M Mohapatra, Bhubaneswar**  
**Q** Has Wasim Bari ever captained Pakistan? If so, when and against which team? Please give his captaincy record.  
**A** Out of the six Tests captained by Wasim Bari against England, he lost two Tests the remaining four Tests being drawn. He won the toss four times.  
**Miss R V Chaudhary, Bombay**  
**Q** Who has played the maximum number of Test matches?  
**A** Colin Cowdrey of England, who represented his country in 114 Tests.  
**Binaya Bhushan Sahu, Bhubaneswar**  
**Q** What is the address of the Hindi commentator Sushil Doshi?  
**A** 132 Jaora Compound Indore 452 001

**Gyan Chand Solanki, Bhopal**  
**Q** Who is the top scorer when New Zealand were all out for 26 against England in 1954-55?  
**A** Opener Bert Sutcliffe was the top scorer with 11 runs in his side's total of 26.  
**N. Muridhar, Cuttack**  
**Q** Which Indian batsman holds the record for scoring the maximum number of runs in a six-ball over in Tests?  
**A** Sandeep Patil has hit a maximum of 24 runs in the six-ball over from England's captain Bob Willis in the Manchester Test in 1982.  
**Dinesh Karna, Delhi**  
**Q** Is a batsman out if a ball coming in from outside the leg stump hits him on the pads when he is in front of the

stumps?  
**A** No, not out.  
**Arvind Korseonkar, Vasco**  
**Q** Which fast bowler has taken the highest number of wickets in Tests?  
**A** Dennis Lillee of Australia has captured the highest number of wickets in Tests—328 wickets in 63 Tests.  
**Devi Prasad Sur, Calcutta**  
**Q** If the two captains agree to call play to an end in the dying moments on the final day of the match, which is heading for a dull draw, are the umpires bound to abide by the captain's appeal?  
**A** In Test matches, much depends on what is agreed in the playing conditions. In first-class matches in India, the umpires have to make the captains play till the scheduled time for close of play is

## Bridge

Her Schapiro

Last week I referred to an irritating and recurrent problem. Your partner opens 1 NT and your right-hand opponent overcalls in a suit. Normally, you double if you have their suit and reasonable values and bid a suit of your own if you don't fancy defending. But suppose that you have only two cards in the opponent's suit and only four card suits of your own? A convention called Lebensohl seems to solve a number of problems, especially at pairs scoring. After intervention, a double shows the values for 2 NT and at least a doubleton in the opponent's suit. Then partner can pass if he has strength in their department. In contrast, a bid of 2 NT demands that partner bid three-clubs, which you either pass or convert to three of your own suit—and this is a merely competitive gesture. However, a new suit over the intervention is forcing. The convention worked out well on this deal:

♠ A 7			
♥ A 8 5 2			
♦ Q J 6			
♣ K J 7 3			
♠ K J 1 9 6 5			
♥ J 4			
♦ A K 7			
♣ J 9			
	N		7
	W	E	♥ Q 10 9 6
		S	♦ 9 4 3
			♠ Q 8 6 4 2
			♠ A Q 9 3
			♥ K 7 3
			♦ 10 8 7 5
			♣ A 5

This was the bidding with East-West vulnerable:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	2 ♣	double	pass
pass	pass		

Following the system, North doubled the intervention and South had no difficulty in finding a pass. North got off to the best lead of ♠ Q and it was straightforward for the defence to collect a diamond, two hearts, two clubs and three trump tricks for a penalty of 800 points—far better than a doubtful game.

At the other table, after the same start, North who was not playing Lebensohl raised to 2 NT. South might have pushed on but he didn't. It was just as well, for he had only seven tricks after the good lead of ♠ 10. He was able to organise an eighth trick with the aid of an end-play but

that was exactly his contract and only 120 points—poor compensation for what his team-mates had lost.

The convention doesn't always work out but it seems to show a profit on balance. Some players invert things—they play so that a new suit after intervention is non-forcing while the manoeuvres following three-clubs are game forcing. You pay your money.

**Last week's quiz.** At love all you hold as South ♠ 7 3 2, ♥ none, ♦ 6 2, ♣ A K 10 9 8 6 3 2. West opened one heart. North overcalled with 1 NT and East raised to two-hearts. At pairs scoring a raise to 3 NT is probably best—at teams the optimists bid six-clubs but I think that I would go for the middle-of-the-road solution with a bid of five-clubs. I could be wrong (I was in practice!) but I would make the same bid again if put to the test.

**This week's quiz.** Vulnerable against not as South you hold ♠ K 4 ♥ A K 9 7 4, ♦ 7 5, ♣ K 8 7 6. East deals and opens one-spade, you overcall with two-hearts (not everybody's choice) and your partner bids two-spades. Now East puts the cat among the pigeons with a bid of four spades. What action do you take?

## Chess

Peter Clarke

All players at some time or other—the weaker they are the more often it happens—fail to make the most of their chances because they do not find the right plan and cannot exploit an advantage. Bent Larsen's *Good Move Guide* (reviewed here on April 4) offers some useful guidance in this direction. The Danish grandmaster stresses that you should trust in the logic of the game, as formulated primarily by Steinitz, the first World Champion in brief, this requires that attack should overcome defence only if the attacker starts with a definite superiority. A position from the practice of Steinitz is included among the examples in the section of the book on planning, and I now give the complete game.

White: Wilhelm Steinitz; Black: Johannes Zukertort.  
 French Defence (Morra, 1898)

1 P—B4, P—B3; 2 P—B4, P—B6  
 3 P—B5, P—B6; 4 P—P, B—B5

R—B3, R—P; R—B3, K—B2  
 7 B—B, B—B3; R—B1, R—B2  
 R—P—B3, P—B4

This unnecessarily weakens Qh4. 9 B—K3 intending at once to threaten the white KP by B—B2 should yield Black a satisfactory game.

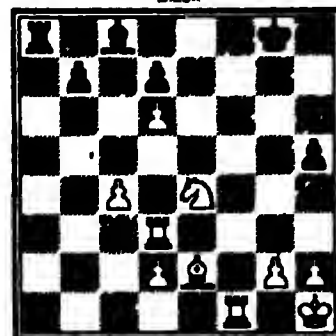
10 P—B4, Q—B1; 11 R—B2, R—B3  
 12 B—B3, Q—B; 13 B—B5, B—B2  
 14 R—B3, R—B; 15 R—B, B—B  
 16 P—B, P—B3; 17 B—B4, P—B4  
 18 P—B4, B—B2; 19 Q—B2, Q—B1  
 20 R—B3, P—B3; 21 R—B3, R—B2  
 22 K—B1, K—B2; 23 B—B3, P—B3  
 24 R—B1, P—B4; 25 B—B3, Q—B1  
 26 B—B5, K—B1; 27 Q—B4, B—B1

We have reached the position examined by Larsen. He points out that the direct 28 P—Kx4 ought to win, but he states that it is not altogether logical to open things up for the beleaguered black pieces. Why give a man a chance when he is lying down already? Steinitz switches his threats to the centre and Black is too cramped to resist.

28 P—B4, P—P; 29 B—B5, K—B1  
 30 R—B3, R—B2; 31 R—B5, R—B2  
 32 R(B1)—B1, R—B1; 33 B—Pch, R—B  
 34 R—B, Q—B2; 35 R—B7ch, B—B2  
 36 R—Bch, B—B; 37 R—Bch, K—B3  
 38 R—B5, R—B2; 39 P—B3, B—B

Competition 8536 Solution next week

Black



White

White to play and win. Grade 2 (easy)

**Solution to 8536 (Bosko—Rajic, Moscow, 1988)**  
 (B2/461b/3p2pp/Rb4/1P1p4/3P2P1/3PP1P/0E1—Black to play)

The Czech master saved himself by 31 R—P, 32 K—R, Q—Rch, 33 K—B3, Q—Rch, and a draw was agreed. White must allow a repetition after 34 K—B2, since both 34 K—B4, Q—K8ch and 34 K—K4, Q—R4ch lead to mate.

**Problem No 1202, Solution next week.**  
 V. B. Petrosian (Special Prize, De Waarheid 1967)  
 (B2/461b/3p2pp/Rb4/1P1p4/3P2P1/3PP1P/0E1—White to play and mate in two moves)

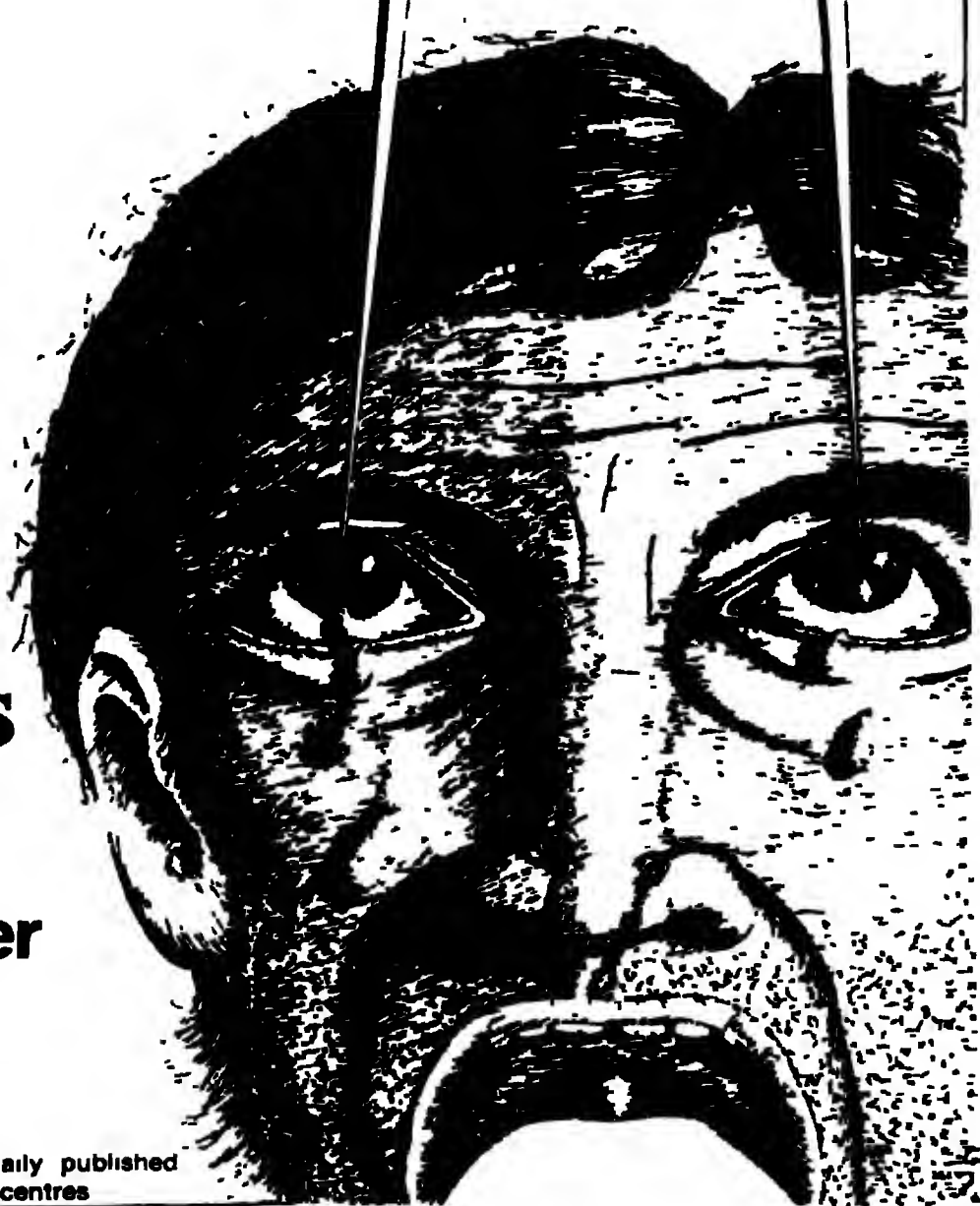
**Solution to No 1201 (Anderson)**  
 (B2/461b/3p2pp/Rb4/1P1p4/3P2P1/3PP1P/0E1—White to play and mate in two moves)  
 1 K—Q5 (threat 2 Q—K7 (a) 1 K—K5; 2 K—P; (b) 1 K—K3, 2 B—B2, (c) 1 R—R3ch, 2 B—K5, (d) 1 R—Q5ch 2 B—Q5



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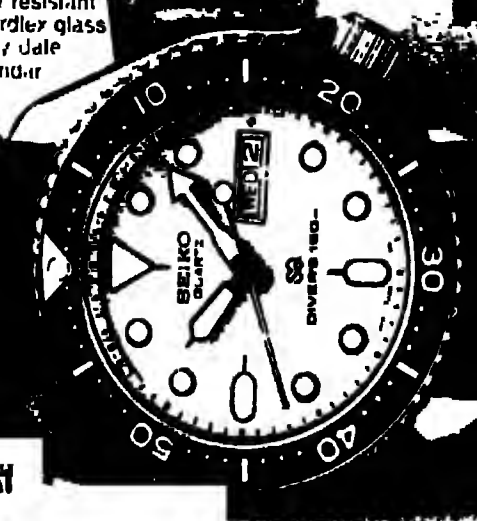
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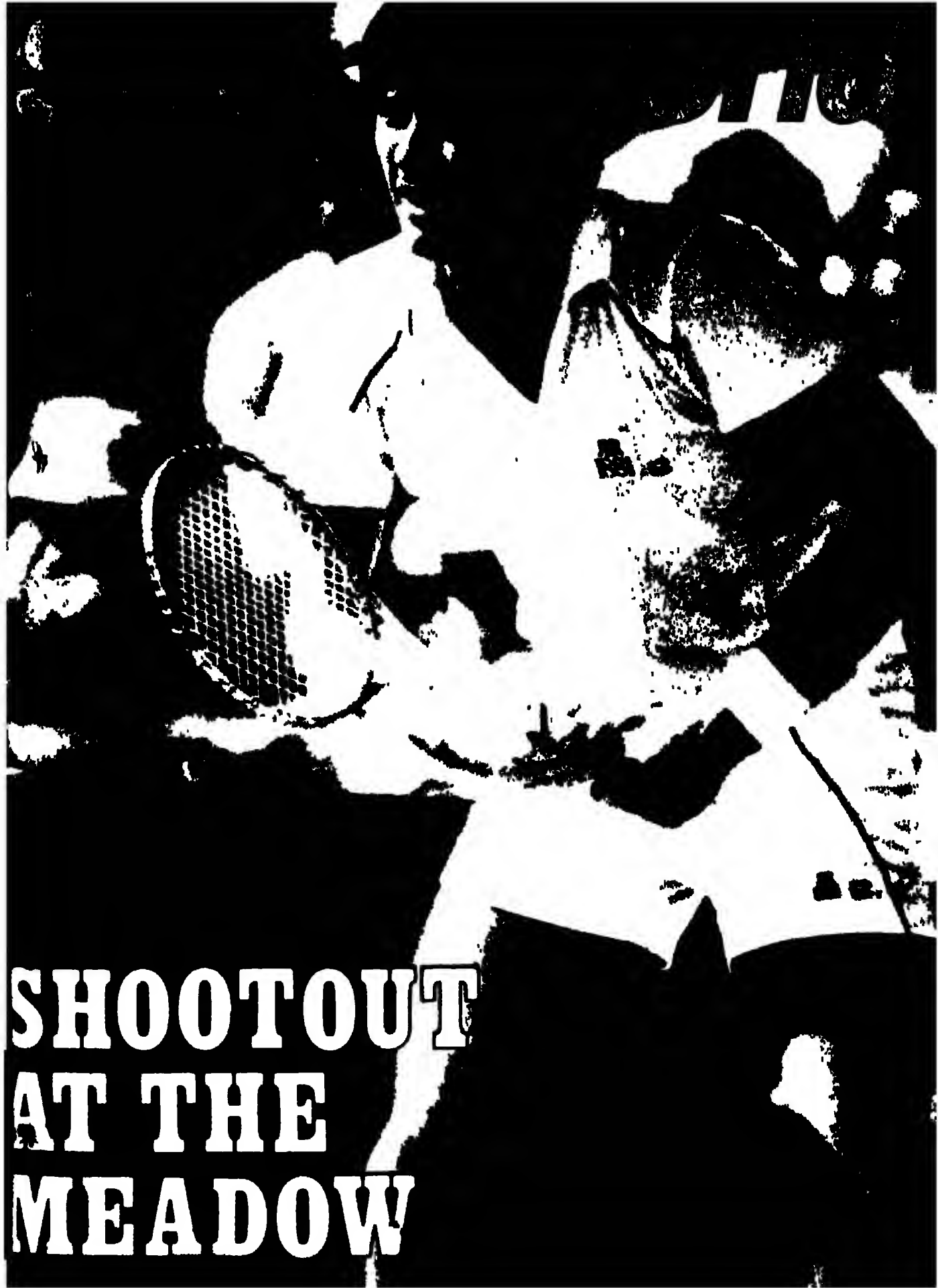
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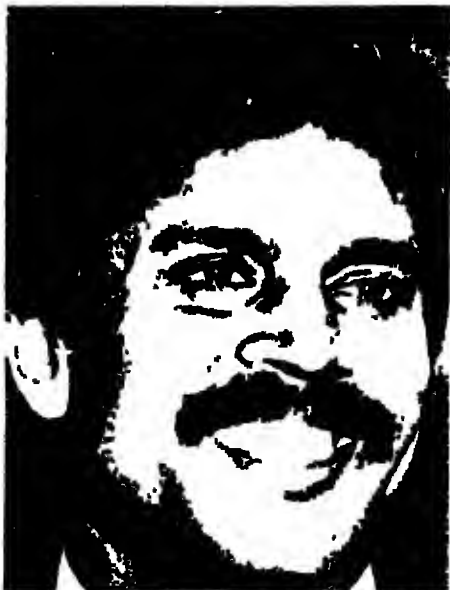


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# SHOOTOUT AT THE MEADOW

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### 8 HOW LONG CAN I CONTINUE ALONE?

Indian chess received a boost when Dibyendu Barua defeated Victor Korchnoi in London recently. SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL interviewed the brilliant youngster on his return to Calcutta



### 12 SHOOTOUT AT THE MEADOW

The U.S. Open this year saw Chris Evert-Lloyd regain her singles crown even as Martina's dream of a Grand Slam chance was destroyed. But more important Connors was back at the Number One spot. GEORGE K. GEORGE reports from Flushing Meadow

### 24 ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

India began in right earnest for the Test against Sri Lanka when they played the visitors in a one-day game at Amritsar. The islanders also played at Delhi against the Indian side and also against the Ranji champions



### SPECIAL FEATURES

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Cover transparency of Jimmy Connors by AP

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Correspondents Bombay Harsh Munwani Madras A-Jok Kamath  
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### Errors not restricted!

IN his letter in the *Sportsworld* of 25 August, Suranjan Roy has pointed out certain errors in his book 'Asian Games: A complete book of records'. However, such errors are not only restricted to Indian books. Recently, while comparing the Olympic records in two books—*The Guinness Book of Olympic Records* (1980 edition) and *The History of the Olympics* (edited by Martin Tyler and Phil Scott). There are a lot of instances where the two prestigious publications do not agree.

For the 1000 metres sprint cycling, the *Guinness Book* states that no event was held in 1900. However, the other book gives complete results showing G. Taillandier of France as the winner with a timing of two minutes and 16.0 seconds.

In the equestrian division, the *Guinness Book* states that in 1900, Haegeman of Belgium won the gold in the Grand Prix (Jumping). It further states that in 1900 the Grand Prix event (Dressage) was not held. *The History of the Olympics* shows Haegeman as the winner of that event for 1900 while going to state that the Grand Prix (Jumping) was not held that year.

While referring to fencing, the *Guinness Book* states that Cuba won it in 1904 while the *History of the Olympics* clearly lays down that the event was not held in that year! Even the case of the Free Pistol Shooting (50 metres) the discrepancy appears. In the *Guinness Book* the winners for the years 1896, 1900, 1912 and 1920 are listed. *The History of the Olympics* states that the event was not held until 1904. Even in the Small Bore Rifle position the *History of the Olympics* has listed the winners for

1900, 1908, 1912 and 1920. Somehow, the *Guinness Book* states that the event was not held until 1924! The Olympic Trap Shooting event for 1900 is, according to the *Guinness Book*, Roger de Baibarini of France. However, the *History of the Olympics* puts the winner as W. Ewing of Canada. Even in the freestyle heavyweight wrestling the *History of the Olympics* states the winner to be K. Schumann of Germany in 1896. According to the other book this event in 1896 was not held at all!

For the Greco-Roman light heavyweight wrestling, in 1912 the *Guinness Book* states that no gold medal was awarded and the silver went to two wrestlers—A. Ahlgren of Sweden and I. Bohling of Finland. *The History of the Olympics* asserts that both the wrestlers got gold medals!

For the Greco-Roman heavyweight wrestling the *History* states that the event was not held in 1896 while the *Guinness Book* supplies the complete results. More dissimilarities are not difficult to find. For the men's high jump in 1896 the *Guinness Book* states that there was a tie for the second place between James Connolly and Robert Garrett, both recording 5'7". According to the *History* Connolly won the silver with a jump of 5'7 1/4" while Garrett with 5'7 1/4" got the bronze.

There are many other instances that I have come across where the two publications disagree. I wonder which figures are the correct ones. Would a third party—hopefully the one with the figures in order—enlighten the readers?

JAIMIA M. BHATT,  
Bombay

### Why neglected?

A CRICKET tour programme recently published, has given India's commitments for the next nine years. But it is surprising to note that out of the 15 series that India

## Pulled muscle?



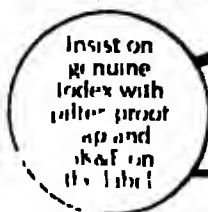
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will be playing only one has been arranged against New Zealand. And the gross negligence can be easily gauged when you find that four have been arranged against the West Indies, three each against England and Pakistan, and two each against Australia and Sri Lanka. Does the Board fear the might of the Kiwis? I am indeed very sorry to learn of their attitude.

**KIRTI AZAD,**  
New Delhi

donesians were absent, why on earth did the organisers try to lure the people to see the tourney? It is shameful and tragic to waste so much foreign exchange on ordinary 'phoren' players, so very important to our organisers and not the quality, which is a must in such tournaments.

**RAHUL CHANDA-WARKAR,**  
Pune

## Not aware

SOME time back a reader had written that Ian Botham should have got the Man of the Series award and not Kapil Dev. Perhaps, he is not aware of the statement given by Jim Laker, the adjudicator of the award. Moreover, I would like to quote Jack Fingleton, who once said, "Statistics, not definitive, can be most misleading."

**VALEED AHMAD,**  
Mau-Aima

## Interesting

YOUR issue of 25 August carried an interesting article on Botham's captaincy question. Either the Somerset and England all-rounder sparks off high praise or equally high criticism. It is remarkable to find the amount of material already written on this young cricketer. Few younger people have broken as many records in cricket, and his abilities on the field is at times as unpredictable as they are unbelievable.

Even then I believe that as a captain he was dimly poor and I never cease to be surprised as to how vehemently writers have attacked this sole phase of his abilities. More often than not it has been unwarranted and unfair. Many writers, I feel, have taken that as an opportunity to empty their animosity towards Botham on paper.

However, to a great extent, I feel that the captaincy had smothered his talents. It is bad enough for Botham to worry about saving a match, winning or drawing it. Granted that he could make a good captain but his talents as a cricketer are more pre-

## The best of Pakistan

WITH all respect to John Arlott I strongly differ with him on two points in his article on the best team of Pakistan down the years in the issue of 18 August. Firstly, I would like to include both Saeed Ahmed and Javed Miandad, the former for his artistic strokeplay and the latter for his already proved indispensability in any Pakistani side in preference to Mushtaq Mohammed, whose ability as a top class all-rounder I do not deny (Saeed Ahmed was also a useful leg spinner). Secondly, my firm conviction is that a wicket-keeper should primarily be selected on the basis of his merits behind the stumps and as such, I would prefer Wasim Bari to Imtiaz Ahmed though the latter is easily the best batsman wicket-keeper produced by Pakistan so far. So I feel that the team should be amended to Hanif Mohammed (captain), Majid Khan, Zaheer Abbas, Saeed Ahmed, Javed Miandad, Asif Iqbal, Iqbal Khan, Intikhab Alam, Fazal Mahmood, Wasim Bari (wk), Sarfraz Nawaz and Mushtaq Mohammed (twelfth man).

**SAMIR SEN,**  
Durgapur

## Rightly lashed

IN your 1 September issue Hareesh Munwani, your Bombay correspondent, has rightly lashed the Indian Masters that were held at Hyderabad some time back. In spite of knowing that the Chinese, the Danes and the top In-



cious to England than his abilities as a captain. He is unquestionably unique and for this very reason I feel that everyday problems should not be thrust on him. And even if England do not take back Ian Botham as captain he should not treat it as an insult but as a compliment. After all, they have openly confirmed that he is special—and indispensable.

**SRIHARI IYENGAR,**  
Bangalore

## Arbitrariness

LET me bring to your notice the arbitrariness of the AIR Sports Bulletins. Nowadays they are relayed in durations of five minutes each on two occasions, once in Hindi and the other in English. But still, some sports news are also covered in the 8.45 and 9 p.m. broadcasts.

It has also been noticed that the North India matches in the Ranji Trophy are included but scores of the teams of the other parts of the country are ignored. Sometimes news of the results of the prize money tournaments are also splashed. The necessity of including such an item in a news bulletin of a national ranking cannot be easily understood. I feel that the results of the Ranji, Dulip and the Deodhar Trophies should be given greater coverage. The results of the regional tournaments should also be stepped up for public notice.

**Y S JOGAI ENU,**  
Gwalior

## Congrats, kid!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Indian chess maestro Dibyendu Barua for being awarded the International Norm for the second year in succession, defeating the world number two Viktor Korchnoi and giving a stupendous performance in London. It was once again sorry to note that Barua had financial difficulties. My question is that if the Indian Government can spend so much money on the cricketers and third rate footballers why can they not extend help to this bright young prospect.

What a pity it is to see Jatin Chakraborty and the footballers enjoying the Olympics and Sailen Manna witnessing the World Cup when Dibyendu is finding it so hard in making a trip to England.

In the future, will the readers and chess lovers come forward to help Dibyendu and show that the so-called government help is not needed at all?

**PRABAL GUHA,**  
Calcutta

## Vaidya is correct

YOUR issue of 11 August carried a clarification by you saying that Lala Amarnath holds the record for the fastest century for India. But on page 210 of *India-England Cricket Visits* edited by S. K. Roy, Lala Amarnath's innings is stated to span for 210 minutes. My clippings from the *Times of India*, dated 20 March, 1965, reads 'Saidesai had 18 fours in an innings that lasted 140 minutes'.

From my other sources of records, I have found out that Saidesai in his innings of 106 in the fourth Test against New Zealand at Delhi in 1964-65 completed his hundredth run in 127 minutes.

Hence, I feel that I am correct in saying that Saidesai holds the Indian record for scoring the fastest century.

**SUDHIR VAIDYA,**  
Thana

(We respect your view but our information was taken from an article by James Gibb in the *Wisden Cricket Monthly* of February 1980. Amarnath reached his century in 117 minutes while his entire innings of 118 took him 185 minutes. There it has been clearly acknowledged that after Amarnath's innings the fastest is to the name of Saidesai.)

## Final say

I HOPE that magician P. C. Sorcar, asked to perform at the Asian Games doesn't produce more rabbits than gold for India!

**CAROLINE GILLESPIE,**  
Walsair.

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# My most memorable moments

## JAIDIP MUKERJEA

*It was a pleasure meeting the ex-tennis star. Grey hairs have slowly found their way into an otherwise black mop, but Jaidip Mukerjea is still sprightly at forty. As he sat and reminisced in his drawing room at Lord Sinha Road in the company of his father and his three beautiful daughters, Shahn Mahm and Anisa, one had to conclude that this man was still very much in love with tennis. Mukerjea is a dealer for TISCO and "I also do a little buying and selling of chests of tea."*

*At the same time Jaidip is still very closely associated with the game. He conducts an annual Coaching Camp, which over the years has been sponsored by different firms and attracts many promising youngsters of Calcutta. Jaidip also helps out with the coaching camps held throughout the year at the South Club and goes abroad regularly on similar assignments. His most recent trips abroad have been to Malaysia and Switzerland. However, Mukerjea does not have any degree in coaching and it was probably for this reason that he was not selected to help in the organisation of the tennis tournament at the Asian "They should have given preference to ex-national players and at least for us, we need not bother about degrees," Jaidip says. "I have seen NIS in Patiala offering my services, but there was no reply. Jaidip is a very outspoken person and does not pull his punches--or shots should we say--and that is what's made him the great tennis player that he is."*

**I** WAS born on April 21, 1942 and did not take to tennis till I was twelve. As a youngster I was always interested in rugby and football and regularly at school in Madras and Calcutta. Then in 1950, the school collar game played in Madras and was left with no time to play tennis during the summer holidays. I was very disappointed that I could not play in by and in read had to join the B. K. Kumar Amrit Kanti coaching camp at the South Club. This was my first experience of playing tennis and I soon took to the game. Between 1951 and 1959 I played in a number of Junior

and Senior tournaments and was delighted to go to Wimbledon to play in the men's and the junior events. After making it to the semi-final of the juniors I sprained my ankle and had to give a walk-over. It was really disappointing to have to concede a walk-over after having come so far and I was determined to make another all out bid the following year. I was overjoyed when I reached the final in 1960, but went down to Rodney Mandelstam.

It was in the same year, that I made my Davis Cup debut. It was a fairly tale debut, which was played at Bangkok against Thailand. Our captain Ramanathan Krishnan was down with chicken pox and Naresh Kumar had to lead the team. I was chosen to play. I was lucky and thrilled that I opened the tie and thus given the opportunity to play in a live rubber. I won my first Davis Cup match and we went on to win the tie. This was the start of my long association with this premier tennis team event and now I am proud to be have played the maximum number of tennis matches in the Davis Cup by an Indian. I did not know this till only a few years ago when I was informed by a friend that the 42 matches played by me were the highest an Indian has ever played. It is really wonderful to know that one has done a great job for one's country, and to have played more Davis Cup matches than the legendary Krishnan.

I started teaming up with Premjit Lal since I was about fifteen or sixteen. We have played some great matches together and I thoroughly relish the relationship we developed on the tennis court. We are also very good friends and it was always great fun playing with Prem.

1966 was a particularly good year for me, and must rank as one of my most memorable years in tennis. I put it across Ramanathan Krishnan in the Nationals and also at the Asians. I played the best match of my career at Delhi in the Inter-Zone Davis Cup final against West Germany. We were leading by two matches to one when I went out to play W. Bungart, a Wimbledon semi-finalist that year. It was very

important that I won and I really played good tennis to beat the German 8-6 in the fourth set to clinch the match and the tie. I, as well as the other members of the team were thrilled when we came from behind to put it across Brazil and enter the final against Australia. The Aussies were, undoubtedly, a formidable side and Krishnan and I combined to play John Newcombe and Tony Roche. This was one of the best games of doubles I have ever played and we upset one of the most formidable doubles pair in the history of tennis. The match was played in Australia, but one always got the impression that one was playing at home. After our victory we were given a standing ovation and you cannot imagine the super feeling it is.

I've had some very memorable moments playing tennis and it is really difficult to single out just one or two particular instances. But surely very high up on the charts must be the occasion when I was awarded the Arjuna in 1967. I was given Third Class fare to go to Delhi to receive the award and was sanctioned an eight rupee allowance while in the capital. But it was worth all the trouble. The 'Arjuna' is still here (pointing to the award which is kept in his drawing room) but unfortunately the bow is broken.

All my victories at any level of the game are dear to me. I've won the Asians three times, in 1969, 1970 and again in 1972 and the Nationals in 1970. I relish my performance at Wimbledon. Premjit and I reached the doubles quarter finals there. Other memorable moments of mine are when for four years--1963, 1964, 1966 and 1972--I made it to the last sixteen of the men's singles at the Mecca of tennis.

Till 1970 I was, what they would call, a registered player after which I turned professional. I knew I was all but over the top in 1975 and I joined an American side to play World Team Tennis. It was called the Baltimore Banners and I had the pleasure of playing with Jimmy Connors and people. It has been a long journey with the racquet in my hand and I have no regrets. It was a great fun!

As told to DEREK O'BRIEN

# ASIAD VENUES



## A glittering monument

**T**HERE can be little doubt that Appu will have the most memorable moments of his life at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the main arena for the ninth Asian Games. The speed and style in which the project has taken shape is a tribute to indigenous talent—engineers, architects, masons, brick layers and thousands of other workers, both skilled and unskilled. The stadium, named after the country's first Prime Minister who at the first Asian Games in New Delhi 31 years ago, gave Indian sport the immortal slogan 'Play the game in the spirit of the game,' provides accommodation for 75,000 in two tiers.

Entry to the tiers is designed in such a way as to avoid intermingling of spectators going to separate tiers. The entire stadium can be vacated in less than ten minutes. Eight ramps have been provided around the outer periphery which enable the public to reach the upper concourse.

The main stadium will hold the opening and closing ceremonies, the mandatory track and field events and the foot-

ball semi-finals and final. For the prestigious athletics events and eight lane Olympiatic synthetic track has been laid around a natural grass soccer pitch by Messrs En Routeas of the United Kingdom who have given a five year guarantee for their product which they have sold for £3,69,395.

A special room atop the stadium is provided for the expert manning of photo-finish cameras.

A 20 metre Matrix type scoreboard will be positioned on the north stand. The score board will exhibit results in Hindi and English. Black and white pictures can also be flashed. All the results will be shown on the score-board through a computer-controlled microprocessor. For the first time, Hindi characters have been specially evolved for this purpose. The south stand will have a smaller auxiliary scoreboard. The results of the events at all the other venues will be flashed

immediately on the giant score board by using a computer terminal installed in the stadium having a wireless link with the giant computer of the Electronics Commission. All this is a lesson taken out from the book of the organisers of the Moscow Olympics with improvements thrown in for good measure. The same Hungarian firm of Electronics, which installed the scoreboard at Moscow in 1980, has been given the job at Lodhi Road.

The stadium is floodlit for the events staged at night.

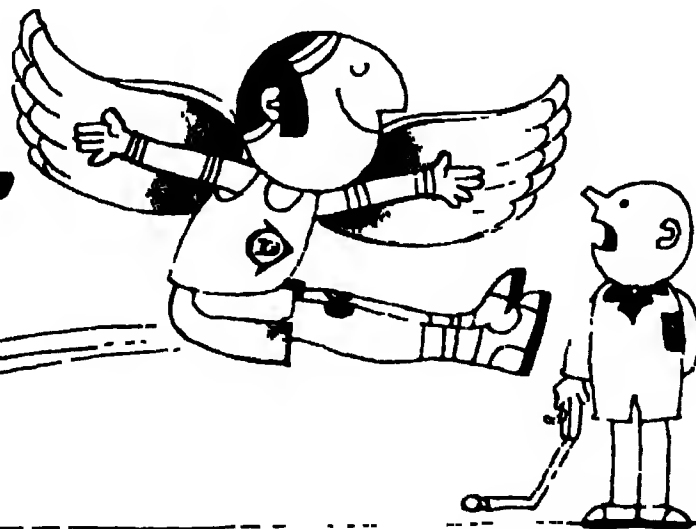
The Nehru Stadium has a modern medical unit, change rooms, lockers, massage rooms, cafeteria, dining facilities and a four lane synthetic warm up track connected to the main arena by subway. The sacred flame will burn throughout the Games in the specially designed structure located in the east stand.

Overseas communication services will provide facilities for international trunk calls.

A five metre wide sunken walkway has been provided around the arena to facilitate the movement of games officials, accredited cameramen and their equipment. A specially designed audio-communication system has also been provided for.

The Stadium builders with long experience of the capital's traffic and space problems have provided ample space for parking facilities for 2,700 cars, 3,000 scooters, 200 taxis, 400 auto rickshaws and 52 buses meant for the participating athletes. All this in the midst of an area with trees and exotic plants of a vast variety. The Jawaharlal Stadium will be another glittering monument outshining the many others already dotting the capital. By the time it is given a completion certificate it will have consumed 150 lakh bricks, 21,000 tonnes of cement, 6,700 tonnes of steel bars, 1,000 tonnes of structural steel and 4,500 kilowatts of power, all at a cost of Rs 17 crores.

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# How long can I go on alone?

In an exclusive interview with SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL the young chess genius of India DIBYENDU BARUA, who has created a sensation by defeating the ex-world champion Victor Korchnoi at the recently-concluded Lloyds Bank chess tournament at London, describes the difficulties he has to face to keep his ambition alive and prepare himself for meeting the challenge of international competitions

**SPORTSWORLD** When did you start preparing for the Lloyds Bank tournament?

**DIBYENDU BARUA** Well, preparing for these big tournaments is always a big problem for me. When invitations come from the organisers of such international meet, I always find myself in a state of uncertainty—whether I can ultimately take part or not—mainly because of financial problems.

Thus I was not in a very relaxed frame of mind. And as far as the game of chess is concerned, you cannot afford to be in such a situation for long. It is bound to tell on one's game considerably. But then, it cannot be helped because this uncertainty has become the order of the

day I received the invitation to the tournament nearly two months ago, but it was not until the day I boarded the plane for London at Delhi Airport that I knew I was actually going.

**SW** What were the financial problems that stood in your way?

**DB** It is entirely up to the All India Chess Federation to make arrangements for the foreign exchange and also for the passage money. All that we can do is to let them know about the invitation and then wait for the final decision from them.

Now, the main problem with the Lloyds Bank tournament was that it was not included in the budget set aside by the Central Government for sending young and promising chess

players abroad. Naturally, there was some reluctance on their part as well as some difficulties in sanctioning my trip to England. I had virtually given up hope of participating in the tournament.

That was not all. I was also haunted by the memory of missing the British Championship because of identical financial problems. Had I participated in that tournament and been able to win one norm, I could have obtained today the International Master ranking (Barua obtained one norm at the Lloyds tournament, but is still one norm short).

Had I gone for the British Championship, which began in early August, it would have meant spending one full month at London if I wanted to stay on and participate in the



Dibyendu with T. Parameswaran (extreme left) and Praveen Thipsay

Lloyds Bank competition also That was something I just could not afford

Thipsay, however, elected to do just that, but he had to pay a heavy price for it When my father and I met him at London, he recounted the story of how he had suffered He was on the brink of starvation Actually, I had been very disappointed about not being able to take part in the British Championship It was my father who stood very firm in his decision not to take any risk And I found his adamance justified when we heard of Thipsay's experiences

Anyway, coming back to those anxious days before the London tournament, I virtually gave up all expectations of participating, let alone preparing for it

SW: How did the tour finally materialise?

DB Anxiety mounted day by day, but the Central Government decided at last to provide only the passage money—return fare—but only for me They did not take into account the fact that I needed a coach who is normally supposed to accompany a player to such major tournaments

The hall was now in our court and everything depended on how much money my father could borrow from his friends and relatives We needed at least Rs 18,000 and did not have much time He started borrowing from various sources but we lost a few valuable days in the process When at last we had the money there was no time left to get to Delhi by train, so we had to go by air and pay our own way

SW: Why did your father accompany you this time as your coach?

DB Well, there is no such thing as a coach in chess in our country I've learnt the game mostly on my own I've also picked up tips from my father, who, however, can never be said to be my coach because he is not a regular participant in tournaments, national or international This is a must for a good chess coach

In fact, the system is very peculiar here Only when it comes to going abroad for a major tournament does the All India Chess Federation send somebody as my coach He comes to my place a few days before the trip, shows me a few pointers and then after the tournament is over I find myself all alone once again It is extremely difficult to practise chess for long hours if you don't have a good companion

SW: Then how do you practise at home?

DB: I hardly practise at all It is only during tournaments that I get a sufficient amount of match play

SW: How many tournaments have you played so far this year?

DB: Well, quite a few, but I missed a number of important ones too due to my secondary examinations, in March. All these tournaments took place around January/February



*Dibyendu deep in meditation*

when I was preparing for the examination

Here too we chess players have a very fundamental problem A chess player needs to participate in tournaments just as much as he needs to take rest For those who can practise at home taking time off from competitive chess, it's okay But for people like me who cannot utilise much leisure time it's a big problem I can neither go in for too many competitions nor can train hard at home

SW: What is the situation like in European countries?

DB: They have got a very good system Four to five players train under one coach on a long-term basis and when one of his pupils go somewhere to play in tournaments they travel together It is not that this is the only way to improve one's game Chess is basically a game which needs individual talent But the main advantage of having an experienced coach is that he can keep a chess player abreast of the improvements in terms of skill and technique achieved by the stalwarts of the chess world That helps a player when he is participating in international tournaments

**Only when it comes to going abroad for a major tournament does the AICF send somebody as my coach. He comes to my place a few days before the trip, shows me a few pointers and then after the tournament is over I find myself all alone.....Even you can come as my coach one day**

SW: Can't this disadvantage be offset with the help of books? In chess, unlike other games, a player can profit considerably from various books and periodicals on the game

DB: Yes, that's true But where do I get such books? Of course there are some in organisations like the Alekhine Chess Club But they are not sufficient

Another problem is that many of these books do not suit my style of play In fact, every player, having his own line of thinking, has to choose books which are suitable for him But that requires a rich stock of chess literature which I do not have access to

SW: It has been noticed that one of your main weaknesses is a tendency to get into time-trouble Would you ascribe it to your lack of theoretical knowledge?

DB: Yes, to a great extent

SW: Would you explain that?

DB: I face this difficulty mostly when it comes to making what we call in chess 'obvious moves' These can be likened to copybook strokes in cricket In situations which call for such moves, foreign players, who certainly have an edge over me in book knowledge make their moves in no time, knowing for sure that they have only one option at that stage of play On the other hand, I have to strain myself hard to get out of the trouble Book-prescribed formulae are safe and dependable but I'm forced to contrive them myself and naturally have to spend much more time on it than others who are well versed in these techniques On many occasions I have created moves that can be found in books which I have never read Experts have pointed this out to me after reading my match descriptions But they never know how much time I have spent on these moves It's like fighting all alone How long can I continue this way?

# Clean fresh breath... Strong healthy teeth



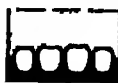
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**That day I was three or four minutes late.....I dashed straight to the table.....There I saw a bald-headed man waiting for his opponent to come. It was Victor Korchnoi and the clock had started at least four minutes ago**

**SW** Do you get any help from the senior players of the country?

**DB:** Yes, they do help me from time to time, but only during tournaments when we happen to be close to one another. But such occurrences are very limited.

**SW** Have any of them ever offered to coach you?

**DB:** Well, Manuel Aaron once asked me to go to Madras and stay with him so that he could give me continuous coaching for some time. But that was impossible for me, because in that case I would have had to do away with my studies. I cannot afford to do such a thing at this stage. I wish I could have availed myself of this opportunity because Aaron is undoubtedly one of the best players in the country today and has always been very helpful towards me.

**SW** Do you have to pay the coaches who accompany you during foreign trips?

**DB:** No, nobody pays them, not even the AICT. The whole system is very informal and amateurish. A coach is sent just because the tournament authorities do not allow a player to participate in a competition without a coach or manager. So it is just a mere formality. Even you can come as my coach one day if the AICT selects you for the job.

(Laughs).

**SW:** Does not one have to be qualified to be a coach?

**DB:** Well, there are no definite rules on this score. Some of my coaches have not even played in National B tournaments while in international tournaments most of my opponents have been trained by Grandmasters. In Russia it is not impossible for an up-and-coming player to get coaching from the world champion himself.

**SW:** Why did you draw your first match though your opponent was not a very tough player?

**DB:** I think this was due to fatigue to some extent. Also because of my initial lethargy in adapting to the new atmosphere. I could have won, but my concentration perhaps was not very strong.

**SW** Talking about concentration, do you think too much media exposure began to tell on your game?

**DB:** I did not feel so, but my father thinks that it was one of the reasons why I could not maintain my form after the victory over Korchnoi. Maybe, this was the case, but I could not tell.

**SW.** Now tell us about your encounter with the ex-world champion Victor Korchnoi?

**DB:** That was one of the most dramatic moments in my life. It was a surprise that I never thought would be so memorable for me. I lived so far out that it took me about 45 minutes to reach London by train, so it was not possible for me to come in the morning and check up on the draw of the day. Thus, I never knew whom I was going to face.

That memorable day I was three or four minutes late. So, on reaching the hall, I didn't have any time to look up the chart of fixtures. Instead, I dashed straight to the table where I was supposed to play. There I saw a bald-headed man waiting for his

**My father has now got to pay back the debt he has incurred and I've to try and learn the more advanced techniques of the game, all on my own. I don't know where I am going from here**

opponent to come. It was Victor Korchnoi and the clock had started at least four minutes ago.

**SW:** Did you feel nervous when you found that the ex-champion was your opponent?

**DB:** No, absolutely not. On the contrary I was thrilled, because I knew I had nothing to lose even if I was routed by the maestro.

**SW:** How did you find him as a player?

**DB:** He is a very aggressive player and always seeks to gain an early breakthrough to turn the game in his favour. But this is a rather risky style of play, especially when the opponent is a positional player. One single mistake can spell disaster and that was partly why Korchnoi lost the match to me.

He went on the offensive right from the beginning, while I adopted more or less a defensive strategy. But both of us got into time trouble which called for fast moves from both sides. In a hurry, Korchnoi made a crucial mistake somewhere around the 44th move, but for which he could have earned a draw.

In fact, Korchnoi was not playing according to his usual form.

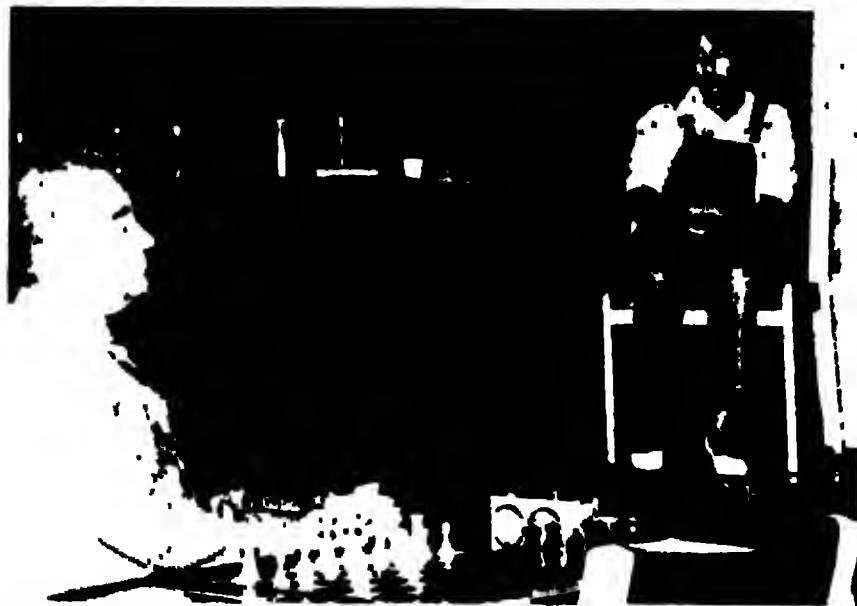
**SW.** Why do you think he declined to be photographed with you?

**DB:** He did not allow any player to be photographed with him, except during the prize distribution ceremony. I don't know the reason. But he is a perfect gentleman. After the match he sat with me, analysed the proceedings and showed me the mistakes I had made. I was very impressed. I think his refusal to be photographed with me has been played up by a section of the Press in an improper way. But people should not misunderstand him.

**SW:** What are your future plans?

**DB:** (Hesitantly) The more I take part in international tournaments, the more I'm beginning to realise that the uncertainty, the lack of proper coaching facilities and my poor knowledge of the theoretical aspects of the game are battling me. My father has now got to pay back the debt he has incurred and I have to try and learn the more advanced techniques of the game all on my own.

I don't know where I am going from here.



Victor Korchnoi

US OPEN

# SHOOTOUT AT THE MEADOW

GEORGE K. GEORGE reports on how Jimmy Connors re-established himself as the world's Number One

**"I** DID what I wanted to when I won Wimbledon one more time, but this is my tournament," Jimmy Connors said after winning his semi-final against Guillermo Vilas. There was no trace of arrogance in his voice. He went on to say "I love to play in front of these people—they're nuts and I'm nuts and we get along fine."

The king in exile was not the favourite according to the experts of the game. Almost unanimously they had named Ivan Lendl as the potential winner. But Connors was the folk hero, the favourite of the New York crowd. It had faith in him when he said that at 30 he could come back and reclaim the throne he occupied in 1974.

As this year's Open concluded the wheel had turned a full circle for Jimmy Connors. In 1974, he won Wimbledon and the US Open and was ranked number one in the world. It never happened again, though he won the Open in 1976 and 1978. But now at last, he is at the top once again.

His final against Ivan Lendl was one of the most inspired performances of his career. Only his last two encounters against Borg at Wimbledon could compare with it. In 1976 and 1978 he fought tough against arch-rival Borg to win here. But this one was special.

He was fighting a man eight years younger than him. Lendl was especially awesome after overcoming McEnroe in six straight matches while conceding only one set. Lendl looked invincible. He had an 86.7 record in 19 tournaments of 1982. One of these he had won 11 and finished as runner-up in five.

Though Connors held an 8-1 career lead over him, Lendl had beaten him 6-1, 6-3 in their last encounter in August. Jimmy Connors does not believe in statistics. He believes only in one number—100. That is the percentage of attention he gives to every match he plays.

That was the way he played in the

final against Ivan Lendl. He knew he had to come up with a definite game plan against the powerful Czech who has been demolishing his rivals with total indifference. He was determined to attack Lendl's most powerful weapons, especially his forehand. He decided to drive the ball across Lendl's forehand to neutralise its deadly effect.

He also returned serve aggressively using the returns as weapons of attack, rather than tools of defence as McEnroe had. His answer to Lendl's aces would be accurate serves with a fair amount of spin, designed to slow down the Czech's powerful and vicious returns.

Above all, Jimmy Connors had faith in himself. Still, the cumulative experience over the years had taught him that the support of 20,000

screaming fans could be another useful weapon. He had seen McEnroe losing crowd support by arguing with officials only the day before. It was stunning to see the New York crowd rooting for the unpopular foreigner in McEnroe's backyard. Connors would leave the disputes and arguments to Lendl and behave like an ideal sportsman.

And the plan worked. Connors had the right weapons to make it work. There was a mild shock in store for the crowd as Lendl broke him in the first game of the first set, after he led 40-15. He remembered what had happened to McEnroe. He had to break back right away and re-establish the psychological advantage. Sure enough he broke back in the very next game.

By the sixth game, Lendl had begun disputes and arguments with the officials. The crowd began to boo him, as it had done to McEnroe. Lendl lost concentration after an argument in the sixth, double faulted and let Connors break him. In the second set, Connors broke in the very first game with triple break points. He broke again in the seventh, then trailed 15-40, but held serve to win the set at 6-2.

In the third set, Connors learned a valuable lesson. One bad game cost him the set and almost put his prospects in jeopardy. He began well by breaking Lendl in the third game. But then he lost two points as he was distracted by the planes flying low over the stadium. Then Lendl argued with the officials.

"Go home, Lendl," screamed someone from the crowd.

The masses booed loudly. It was not directed against Lendl, but at the barracker.

"Stay there, Ivan," yelled a woman.

And the crowd clapped. At last Ivan Lendl began to realise the true nature of a New York crowd. He had spent two weeks complaining that the crowd was against him because he did not smile. But the New York



kers supported him all the way in his crucial semi-final against McEnroe. Even against Connors they cheered him enthusiastically for any good play.

The barracking from the stands was another distraction for Connors. He double-faulted and let Lendl break him. It was too costly an error at this stage of the game.

Soon after the match against Vilas, he had suffered from cramps and the doctors had warned him about the danger of playing five sets. It would have been much safer to wrap up the match, especially at a point when Lendl looked crestfallen. Another break by Lendl in the crucial tenth game gave the Czech a new lease of life with a 6-4 third set.

Suddenly it looked like an altogether different game. The odds seemed to favour Lendl who once again began going full steam. But Connors and the crowd did what they had to. Lendl was broken in the very first game and Jimmy Connors finally began to move into top gear. Lendl broke him in the fifth but Connors broke right back in the next. In the game after that Lendl hit him with a ball and Connors pointed a warning finger at him. But his opponent wouldn't even look at him.

As Connors held serve on the eighth game, the match completed three hours. After finishing the game in love, he danced around with his index finger up meaning "One more game to go" and the 20,000 man chorus repeated it after their hero. But Lendl held serve. Connors pointed two fingers as he needed just two more points. Again the crowds chanted the chorus and clapped in rhythm. Then the sign for "one more" and the chorus. Finally came the moment for Jimmy Connors. As Lendl hit a weak shot into net, he raised both hands, signalling that he was Number One again.

That he had indeed become. With the ring (the US Open title) being added to the cake (Wimbledon) it was perfect for Connors. He had beaten McEnroe at Wimbledon, Lendl here and borg in their two exhibition games in between. The \$90,000 first prize made him the first man to earn four million dollars in pro tennis prize money in one year.

His future plans? He will cut his travelling schedule considerably to devote more time to his family and business. But he still thinks he has two or three more good years left in him.

**I**t was a disappointing Open for both Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe. Lendl was hoping to win his first Grand Slam event. He had defeated Ramesh Krishnan in the first round and had survived a gruelling five-setter against Tim Mayotte who led 2-1 as they went into the fourth set tie-breaker.

His next victims were an out-of-



*Martina Navratilova concentrates ferociously as she goes for a backhand against Jill Davis.*

form Eddie Dibbs and the promising Mats Wilander, both of whom he defeated in straight sets. The revenge against Wilander seemed to give him immense pleasure and confidence. "I took a lot of garbage all summer long over losing to an unknown in the French Open. It was good for me that he eventually won the tournament," Lendl remarked after his win over the sporting Wilander.

He also scored an impressive win over Kim Warwick, the dark horse of

this tournament. Then he contained McEnroe in three sets through his sheer skill and psychological tactics. He tried the same with Connors, but in vain. As he came out of the second semi-final against McEnroe, television reporters asked him if he was ready to play Connors.

"Did he win today?" was the answer. He would have to have some nerve to pretend that he did not know the outcome of the match that was played on the same court a couple of hours previously. It could

# THE END OF A REIGN

*John McEnroe's career record at the US Open*

1975

1st Round, Qualifying beat Barry Philips Moore 6-0, 6-2  
2R Qual lost to Tony Patton 7-6, 6-1

1976

1R Qual beat Gary Plock 6-0, 6-4  
2R Qual beat Tommy Svensson 6-3, 6-4  
3R Qual lost to Zan Querly 7-6, 6-7, 7-5

1977

1R beat Eliot Teltscher 6-1, 6-3  
2R beat Hans Gildemeister 7-5, 6-1  
3R beat Eddie Dibbs 6-2, 4-6, 6-4  
4R lost to Manuel Orantes 6-2, 6-3

1978

1R beat Sherwood Stewart 7-6, 6-4  
2R beat Jaime Fillul 6-4, 6-7, 6-1  
3R beat Peter Fleming 6-4, 6-1  
4R beat Colin Dowdeswell 7-6, 6-3, 6-3  
QF beat Butch Walts 6-1, 6-2, 7-6  
SF lost to Jimmy Connors 6-2, 6-2, 7-5

1979

1R beat Pavel Slozil 6-1, 6-2, 6-4  
2R beat Ilie Nastase 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2  
3R beat John Lloyd, default  
4R beat Tom Gorman 6-2, 6-4, 6-1  
QF beat Eddie Dibbs 2-1, retired  
SF beat Jimmy Connors 6-3, 6-3, 7-5  
F beat Vilas Gerulaitis 7-5, 6-3, 6-3

1980

1R beat Christophe Roger Vasselin 6-3, 6-4, 6-1  
2R beat Steve Krulovitz 7-6, 6-0, 6-2  
3R beat Ricky Meyer 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2  
4R beat Pascal Portes 6-2, 6-4, 6-2  
QF beat Ivan Lendl 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-5  
SF beat Jimmy Connors 6-4, 5-7, 0-6, 6-3, 7-6  
F beat Bjorn Borg 7-6, 6-1, 6-7, 5-7, 6-3

1981

1R beat Ivan Lendl 6-7, 6-1, 6-3, 6-2  
2R beat Tom Gullickson 6-3, 6-1, 6-3  
3R beat Pat DuPre 6-3, 6-2, 6-3  
4R beat Kevin Curren 7-5, 6-0, 6-1  
QF beat Ramesh Krishnan 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2  
SF beat Andre Delgoutis 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3  
F beat Bjorn Borg 6-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3

1982

1R beat Tim Gullickson 7-6, 6-3  
2R beat Mike Davis 7-6, 6-4, 6-3  
3R beat Vitas Gerulaitis 6-3, 6-2, 6-3  
4R beat Matt Cook 6-3, 6-4, 6-4  
QF beat Gene Mayer 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1  
SF lost to Ivan Lendl 6-4, 6-4, 7-6

have been his way of showing that he couldn't care less about Connors. But after this final, he will remember for years to come what a maestro Jimmy Connors is.

In the early part of the finals he even made remarks to the officials implying that he was being discriminated against as a foreigner. He complained so much about the crowd being against him, but the sporting crowd of New York gave him an unforgettable lesson in that respect. With a little more exposure and experience, Ivan Lendl might some day grow up to be a "sportsman" in the true sense of the word. Right now he is just the second best tennis player in the world.

John McEnroe had improved with every game in the Open. His quarter final against Gene Mayer was brilliant. He seemed to have regained the rhythm of his serve and speed on court. But he looked terrified in the semi final. There is something about Lendl that McEnroe hates so much that it makes him paranoid.

At the moment, John McEnroe looks very confused. He has never been the same after last year's Wimbledon experience. The desire to win at any cost is not there. Without being himself, McEnroe cannot play the game he should. There was no reason for the New York crowd to boo him in such a fashion at the semi-finals. It was interesting to hear a lot of people say on the day of the final that they felt sorry that John was not in the final and that they felt they let him down.

He seems to be frustrated by the fact that the public does not give him credit at least for trying to behave the way they want him to. Now that there is no more pressure on him to be Number One or Two, he might have time to take a good look at his own game and work on it.

Luck and the crowd were totally against him in this match against Lendl. Everything that could go wrong went wrong for him that awful evening. Still, he wouldn't make any excuses. "He forces me to do things differently," he said about Lendl. "That's the mark of a great player."

The forgotten man of the tournament was Guillermo Vilas. Only the women seemed to give him the attention he deserved. He had very difficult matches from the first round onwards. But as most of the seeds fell by the wayside, Vilas kept going. His abilities and coach Tintac's will, pushed him past grueling four setters and five setters. Ironically, his only easy match was the quarter final against Tom Gullickson. In the semi final he was impressive even while losing to Connors. No player looked so athletic and fit as the poet from Argentina.

It is also a pity that more is being written about Martina Navratilova's quarter final loss, than about Chris

Evert about Lloyd's sixth title. Martina made the front page of the *New York Times* in her loss, while Chris didn't, even in her historic victory. Maybe she achieved this great feat with so much ease that people failed to notice her classy performance. Perhaps it was because she didn't create any media sensation before the tournament.

The Press had involved her in a controversy after her second round match. One of the reporters asked her if she would travel to Australia to break the Grand Slam dreams of Martina Navratilova.

"Hopefully they will be broken by then," replied Chris. She had earlier remarked that she was a little insulted by the fact that Martina was claiming a place among the all time greats of tennis on the basis of just this year's performance.

Chris, for her part, had lost to Hana Mandlikova in the semi-finals of the French Open and to Navratilova in the finals at Wimbledon. No thing was missing in her game in both those matches except the desire. She came to the Open with the will to win, but a hint of food poisoning almost knocked her out of the tournament. She stayed on courageously, played Kate Latham on an empty stomach and won.

Her match against Bonnie Gadusek, also from Florida, was a turning point. It was the day after Martina had lost. Chris was still weak and lost the first set to Gadusek.

At the changeover she made up her mind. "I didn't want to be another casualty here," she said later. She took 12 consecutive games to win the match. Her remaining matches against promising Zina Garrison, Andrea Jaeger and Hana Mandlikova were straight set wins. In fact, Jaeger played so well in the tournament till her semi final against Chris that some even singled her out to upset the veteran. Jaeger had won then two previous encounters this year, but this time Chris was gracious enough to emphasise that the 6-2, 6-2 score was no indication of the younger girl's performance.

Hana Mandlikova does not have a middle name. If she wants to have one, "Unpredictable" is the word. She is the most talented player on the circuit today. She plays in such an unorthodox style that she some times defies all ground rules. Chris Lloyd admitted that when Hana is on the go, she is unbeatable. But it is also true that when she is had, she is terrible. Chris had swept her away in the 1981 Wimbledon final and the 1980 Open. The same happened in this year's final, for Hana played in patches. The result was 6-4, 6-1 for Chris. It took only 64 minutes for her to dispose of someone seven years younger than her.

There was something stunning about the way Chris played in the final. She was expected to stay near the baseline, but she came up to the net, driving Hana far back with some splendid rallies. "I can't really replay the match," Chris said later. "I was concentrating so hard I sort of was in a trance."

About the future she said, "I will go till December and then see how I feel. If I'm still eager, I will commit myself next year." But Hana Mandlikova says that Chris repeats the same thing almost every year.

Martina Navratilova's quarter-final loss to her close friend and doubles partner Pam Shriver, was a sad way of ending a 41 match streak. It was only her second defeat in 70 matches.

At the end of the 16, 7-6, 6-2 match Pam Shriver apologized to her friend.

Martina put her head on Shriver's shoulder as they left the court. Both were in tears. "I'm not bitter, but I'm disappointed. I'm glad it was Pam and not anyone else. I wish she could be more happy about it than she is. She was sad at the end. I know what she was going through," Martina said.

Even in defeat, she was gracious at the post-match press conference. Dr. Gary Wadler, one of the tournament physicians, had diagnosed a virus infection a week previously. He had asked her not to play. According to him, she was suffering from toxoplasmosis which she had contracted in Australia during the Federation Cup, and which could drain her in long matches. Evidently, that is what happened as the match stretched to the third set.

This is the one tournament that has always eluded Martina. Winning here would have meant a probable shot at the Grand Slam. She only had to try in the Australian Open to do that. Some had even said that though she won the 1981 Australian Open in December, a victory here would count as a Grand Slam, but it was a controversial point.

In addition, she also lost a \$500,000 bonus from Player's Co. She had already won an identical amount after winning Wimbledon and a couple of other tournaments.

"Believe me, money is the last thing on my mind," Martina said. "The main thing is that I still have to win this tournament. People will always ask me how I never won the US Open."

**T**HIS tournament had its share of upsets though it was unusual that the four top seeded men made the semi-finals. It had happened only once before in the open era of tennis in the US Open, French Open or Wimbledon. In the 1969 US Open Arthur Ashe, John Newcombe, Tony Roche and Rod Laver had done it.

Besides Gene Mayer, none of the other seeds made their way to the quarter-finals of the men's tourna-



Connors, who won the US Open, is seen in action.

ment. The biggest casualties were first round losers Joe Louis Clubb and Vitas Gerulaitis. In single both the reigning champion, Lethbridge, and in doubles, the reigning champions and top seeds were wiped out. There were few clumps in the mixed doubles, and it was a total upheaval.

Seldom has the older generation of players dominated a Grand Slam tournament as they did at this year's Open. Most of the upsets came from men over the age of 30. The Nastase seemed to lead the way and many followed. When he cat did Nastie beats the pulp out of robust Johan Kriek in a five setter, what do you call it? A miracle? Why not?

Observes Jimmy Connors, "Everybody counts Nastie out because he's 36 years old, but he's got more talent in his little finger than 95 per cent of the players here. To play at his age, you've got to be disciplined, and he is never disciplined. If he had controlled himself, he could have been unmatched." The glimpses of Nastie's old magic were visible even in his quarter-final match against Connors.

Australian Kim Warwick (30), former Chilean Davis Cup player Jaime Fillol (36) and Tom Gullickson (30) were the other surprises in the last 16 of the tournament. Warwick upset the charismatic and popular Yannick Noah (22) of France. Till then, Noah had an excellent streak in the tournament. Fillol overcame power player Fritz Buehning who had beaten Gerulaitis. Gullickson disposed of ace server Chip Hooper who had out served no less than Roscoe Tanner. Another surprise was the singles showing of doubles player Steve Denton who teamed up with Kevin Curren of South Africa to take

the doubles.

Still, it was never an old man's tournament. Seldom have so many unknown players come to the lime light in a recent tournament. The young Swedish game did not rise up to their joint reputation, but the American youngsters, especially the junior Davis Cup players, stole the show.

Rodney Harmon, an unknown from the Southern Methodist University, beat 14th seed Tretschner and became the second black man to enter the quarter-finals of the Open. Only Arthur Ashe had done it before. This young man coughed only 225 at the world. Another college 19 year old Eric Knittel (No. 35) on the ATP list almost knocked out Yannick Noah in three and a half hour encounter. Jimmy Arias, Mike Dickson, Matt Doyle and Mark Dickson gave a preview of things to come in the next couple of years.

Eight of the last sixteen in the women's section were teenagers. Gretchen Ann Rush, and Lisa Bruglin, unknown amateurs skyrocketed to fame during this tournament. Sissan Maccari, who beat Billie Jean King on the opening day, and Bonnie Gadisek will be around for a while, tormenting the established stars. Zina Garrison and Kathy Rinaldi were superb in the early matches.

Barbara Potter and Bettina Bunge were not too lucky this time. It was heartbreaking to see Barbara losing the doubles and mixed doubles, one after the other on the last day. These young women and Andrea Leand are bound to win their spins soon. Seldom do tennis and beauty combine in women as in men.

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# US OPEN DIARY

GEORGE K. GEORGE

## DAY ONE

### Exit India

**M**ATS WILANDER, the hero of the French Open, sets the ball rolling exactly at 11 a.m. on the morning of the last day of August. It is rather warm and humid as the day goes by. Wilander is a little nervous and erratic in the first set, against opponent Bill Scanlon, but wins it all the same at 6-4. Then he sweeps the next two, giving away only four more games. The talent of this calm, cool young man is too obvious. He indicates that he is set to go a long way.

In the meantime Brian Teacher and John Sadri give a classic demonstration of powerful, accurate serving. Teacher has more tricks for the students of the game.

Ivan Lendl and Ramesh Krishnan come onto the stadium court after Wilander has won. Both are nervous in the beginning, but soon Ramesh begins to look more confident. He plays like the favorite. The 6-4, 7-6, 6-1 win by Lendl is more even than the scorecard indicates. With Ramesh's exit, India bows out of the tournament.

Guillermo Vilas loses the first set against Chris Dunk (AIP ranking 208) and goes through many moments of anxiety in the second before settling down to win with ease. Another veteran, Wojtek Fibak, loses to young Chris Mayotte in a five-setter. Stan Smith strikes a blow for the veterans by beating collegian Mike Leach in another five-setter.

But the upset of the day comes in the women's section. Billie Jean King takes on 18-year-old Susan Mascarin for the third match of the day in the main arena. Billie Jean, who played her first US championship five years before her opponent was born, begins with an impressive 3-0 lead. But the world No. 53 has other ideas. She takes the next six games of the set and follows it up with a 6-3 score in the second.

The night session sees Chris Evert-Lloyd eliminate Pilar Vasquez as Johan Kriek accounts for Dick Stockton.

The match of the day: the Vilas-Dunk duel.

## DAY TWO

### Glamour boys bite the dust

**V**ITAS GERULAITIS and Jose Luis Clerc are certainly tennis' leading glamour boys. Their looks, style and mannerisms give them a

star quality that appeals to the masses. Talent they have in abundance, but somehow both men have not lived up to it. Clerc missed Wimbledon and Flushing Meadow was his big chance of 1982. Both men blow it in the first round, here at the US Open.

Gerulaitis has reason to be distracted because the crowd baits him mercilessly. He goes down to headed Fritz Buchning of New Jersey in straight sets. The second game ends in a tie breaker. But in the other two, there is little Gerulaitis can do. Everything goes wrong for him.

Clerc literally blows his chance as he plays Kim Warwick of Australia. The final score of 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (7-3) tells the true story of the roller coaster match. It is heart-breaking to see Clerc lose the final tie breaker. Thus, the fifth and seventh seeds of the tournament go down to the world's Number 56 and 53 respectively.

These upsets also change the balance of the draw. Jimmy Connors, who has an easier draw than most, has his most difficult hurdle out of his way. In the meantime Jimmy wins his opening match without any difficulty against the popular Jeff Borowiak.

Then, it was time for the entry of the clown. The Nastase makes his regular appearance and wins the opener in straight sets. Bob Lutz, the well-known doubles player, is another veteran winner.

Tracy Austin and Martina Navratilova win their opening matches without any problems. Tracy's match is postponed by a day due to her shoulder problems. Andree Jaeger, the No. four seed, looks very impressive in her first round match. Bettina Bungee (9) and young Kathy Rinaldi (13) are the other seeds who score comfortable wins. The notable losers are Virginia Wade and Lesley Allen.

Rain prevents defending champion John McEnroe from completing his match against Tim Gullickson. Other rain victims are Elliot Teltscher and Roscoe Tanner.

The match of the day: Clerc vs Warwick.

## DAY THREE

### A few mild upsets

**T**HIS is a day of mild upsets. Barbara Potter, Mima Jausovec, Raul Ramirez and Mark Edmondson are edged out by unknown opponents in their second-round matches, as the top seeds continue their victorious march.

In the morning, John McEnroe completes his first match and wins in straight sets. Tanner and Teltscher also play out their openers comfortably. Tanner is extended to the fifth set by Sweden's Per Hjertquist.

In the women's section, Kathy Jordan and Betty Stove suffer humiliation, but Claudia Kohde and Zina Garrison, two young talents, march ahead with easy wins.

Now it is time for the second round matches. Yannick Noah comes up with a brilliant performance against Brian Gottfried. The Simonsson brothers of the Swedish team run out of luck. Stefan loses to Gene Meyer but Hans overcomes the experienced Stan Smith.

Chris Evert-Lloyd has an easy encounter with Keely Henry. Virginia Ruzici of Rumania also has an easy second round match. But Mima Jausovec of Yugoslavia (seeded 11) is eliminated by Gretchen Rush of Pittsburgh in a three-setter. Susan Mascarin, who humiliated Billie Jean King, bows out to Vicki Nelson after winning the first set. Promising Barbara Potter (seeded 10) loses against Ros Fairbanks of South Africa in a mild upset. But Tracy Austin is impressive against Beth Norton.

There are two casualties among the seeded men. Mexico's Raul Ramirez is shocked by Schalk Van Der Merwe of South Africa in a four-set encounter. Mark Edmondson, who made the semifinals at Wimbledon this year, loses to Matt Doyle, a young American who plays Davis Cup for Ireland.

The feature match of the event, between Wimbledon Young Turk Tim Mayotte and Ivan Lendl, is rained out after the Czech wins the first set. It is a great day for several upcoming young Americans such as Mark Dickson, Eric Korita and Mike Depalmar.

The match of the day: Noah vs Gottfried.

## DAY FOUR

### Lendl escapes doom

**I**VAN LENDL gets the scare of his life. He is almost knocked out of the tournament by Wimbledon troublemaker Tim Mayotte. As the washed-out match of the previous evening continues with a one-set lead to Lendl, the trend begins to reverse.

Mayotte and the crowd take the second and the third sets from Lendl. The tie-breaker of the fourth set goes to Lendl (7-4) and the stone-faced

Czech take the fifth. The final scores read 6-4, 3-6, 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 in Lendl's favour. Masotte keeps him on his toes three hours and 13 minutes, and serves 19 aces before losing.

On any other day, the talk of the town would have been the Roscoe Tanner-Chip Hooper shootout, but not on the day of the Lendl-Mayotte war. The strongest servers of the game today, Tanner and Hooper go for each other for four hours and 20 minutes, and Hooper wins it 6-7 (2-7), 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4).

More than 7000 spectators now pack the grandstand to witness the game. There is not an inch of space left. The intimidating tactics of the powerfully built and bullet-spitting rivals provide occasional comic relief as well. Tanner leads the tally of aces by 24 to Hooper's nine. But the 23-year-old, six foot six inch, 210-pound giant has the last laugh against his 31-year-old rival.

This proves a perfect day for the most exciting matches of the tournament. The attendance is a record 20,738.

As usual, the top seeds McEnroe, Connors and Lihai Tellescher have no problems. But Brian Teacher, the No. 14 seed, is surprised by 20-year-old Scott Davis who is having a surprisingly successful streak here. Steve Denton, another recent success, scores over Claudio Panatta while Mel Purcell beats Sherwood Stewart and Johan Kriek overcomes Victor Amaya. Harold Solomon who seldom plays in tournaments these days, knocks out young Frenchman Thierry Tulasne, but young Jimmy Arias strikes a blow for youth by beating Shlomo Glickstein of Israel.

Martina Navratilova, Bettina Bunge, Kathy Rinaldi, Andica Jaeger, Hana Mandlikova and Wendy Turnbull continue to win with ease.

The match of the day, Tanner vs Hooper.

## DAY FIVE

### Korita's day

The name is totally unfamiliar, even for the most avid tennis fan in the United States. Eric Korita is the full name. He is 19 and a sophomore (second year) in college at Southern Methodist and hails from Illinois. He has cut his weight down from 235 pounds to 198. He is six foot five inches. He looks about three or four inches shorter, at a first. Hardly anyone noticed that he served 16 aces in his previous match. On the ATP computer, he name appears as only 335.

But the national television audience has a look at him for over three and a half hours as Yankick Noah, one of the most popular players of the tournament, almost loses to him. Only Noah's experience helps him to prevail over the strong serve in

depth volleys, artistic touch and supreme confidence of Korita.

In the end, Noah wins 7-5, 6-7, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in what is probably the best match of the tournament thus far. Both men play superb tennis and both are equally dear to the crowd. It is a delight to see tennis being played in the true competitive spirit. It is pure tennis in its original innocence. It just doesn't look like pro tennis at all.

Ron Watwick continues his low-key upset streak by beating Heinz Günthardt. Matt Doyle is impressive in his win over Hans Simonsson of Sweden.



the Nastase

Gene Mayer gets past Mark Dickson of Florida, a very promising discovery of this tournament. Ivan Lendl takes on Harold Solomon and only gives away four games in all.

The leading women players have no problems on this day. Martina Navratilova wins the 67th of her last 68 matches in two sets. Her doubles partner Pam Shriver wins though she is extended by Dana Gilbert. Tracy Austin, Virginia Ruzici and Andrea Leand sail smoothly into the fourth round.

The match of the day, Noah vs Korita.

## DAY SIX

### The Nasty day

WHEN the Nastase told people yesterday that he was going to take things seriously in his third round match with tenth seeded Johan Kriek of South Africa, they thought Nasty was only kidding. But there was an undertone of nostalgic desire in his voice as he discussed the prospect of meeting his long time friend Jimmy Connors in the fourth round.

And that was precisely what Nasty did. The match itself is a crazy affair, as crazy as the 36-year-old Rumanian. He loses the first set at 6-4, leads 5-0 in the second set, but loses the next six and finally saves his skin by winning the tie-breaker 7-6 (7-2). He could have wrapped up the third easily, but blows his chance for a commanding 5-2 lead. Another tie-breaker and he loses it at 10-8. And then takes the fourth at 6-3. Kriek breaks him right away in the fifth to take a 2-0 lead, but Nasty's patient (and kidding) pays off and he sweeps the next six games to win the third and a half hour affair.

As many as 21 double faults by Kriek and his impatience, and whole-hearted crowd support helps Nasty to achieve the unexpected. This afternoon the Nastase is the talk here. He friends and fellow players greet him with paper confetti as he comes back to the locker room. For a change Nasty has captured the heart of the crowd by a sincere and consistent effort.

Another 36-year-old, former Champion Davis Cup player, Jaime Lillo sends home Fritz Buehning, who had eliminated Vitas Gerulaitis. Another veteran 31-year-old Tom Gullikson dispenses off hard serving Chip Hooper, who had accounted for Roscoe Tanner. Both the matches are low setters. John McEnroe plays copybook tennis to wipe out Vince Van Patten, who had beaten him last year in Tokyo. And Guillermo Vilas over comes collegian Mike DePalmer in four sets.

And to climax it, Chris Evert Lloyd almost defeats her match against Kate Latham due to food poisoning. She decides to play, even though her stomach has not held any food for the whole day, while Andica Jaeger scores another impressive win.

The match of the day, Nastase vs Kriek.

## DAY SEVEN

### The day Ivan smiled

AT last Ivan Lendl smiles. He has a reason to. He has just destroyed young Mats Wilander, now 18, in tonight's match. At Paris, the young Swede had demolished the unpopular Czech on his favourite clay sur-



*Smiling at*  
ROSCOE TANNER  
AP

face Wilander now can claim only two games in each of the three sets they play. Nothing gives Ivan Lendl more pleasure than revenge. And hence, the smile.

Suddenly something unexpected comes up for Lendl even before he plays Wilander. Remember the 30-year-old Kim Warwick, who has played very little tennis recently due to a shoulder surgery but went great guns to beat Fritz Buehning? He does it again this morning by eliminating Yannick Noah who has been the toast of the crowd in this tournament. Noah plays superb tennis, but loses. There is no other way to say it. The better performer just lost. A couple of errors in crucial moments and it is all over.

This is a day of mixed luck for John McEnroe. He plays an all-round game to overcome young Matt Doyle, who puts up an exceptional show and remains the only player in the men's division not to lose a set.

But he has little luck in the doubles. Peter Fleming and McEnroe lose to Victor Amaya and Hank Pfister. It is another blow to McEnroe's already-eroded confidence. Perhaps, it is a blessing in disguise as it will enable him later to concentrate on the singles. His next opponent will be Gene Mayer who eliminates veteran Bob Lutz. It is the first time in seven years that Mayer has reached the quarterfinals at the Open.

For the women it is another easy day. Martina beats Andrea Leand who is not in perfect physical condition. Had she abstained, it would have deprived the Open of something beautiful. It is a sheer delight watching Leand's wild game. As she is being systematically removed on the Stadium Court, Andrea Jaeger is prevailing over young Kathy Rinaldi in the Grand Stand.

Tracy Austin also has no difficulty in dispatching Virginia Ruzici and Pam Shriver gets past Ross Fairbanks. Bonnie Gadusek wipes out Elsie Burgin, who had become one of the dark horses of the tourney. But the upset of the day comes from an unknown Gretchen Rush who knocks out Wendy Turnbull (number six

The match of the day: Noah vs. Warwick.

## DAY EIGHT

### The death of a cover girl

THIS proves to be the most exciting day of the tournament. No body could have foretold the events that would take place during this day. Two major upsets today change the complexion of the tournament considerably. Pam Shriver eliminates her doubles partner, Martina Navratilova, the favourite of the

tournament, 1-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Simultaneously, in the Grand Stand Court, another upset follows. U.S. Davis Cup star Elliot Teltscher, the number eight seed is edged out by unknown Rodney Harmon, a 20-year-old collegian. It is a five-set duel which has the crowd on tenterhooks till the fifth set tie-breaker. In the fifth set, Harmon is trailing 0-40 in the ninth game. Teltscher has the opportunity of making it 4-5 and after three deuces, he does exactly that. Then both hold serve to move into the tie-breaker which Harmon wins 7-1. The match lasts a full four hours.

Guillermo Vilas almost goes out of the competition as he faces hard-serving Steve Denton. The veteran loses the first two sets to Denton 3-6 and 4-6. Then he comes back to win the next three sets 6-3, 7-6, 6-3. Denton serves no less than 25 aces, but the grit and determination of Vilas pay off once again.

The match between Jimmy Connors and Ilie Nastase tonight is more entertainment than competition. Nastase throws his towel at the umpire, calls him a couple of choice words, hits him on his feet with his racquet and asks him to shut up. The match is interrupted by rain, but when it resumes, the 36-year-old Rumanian comes up with every weapon in his armoury, before losing to his old friend.

Another major match of the day features Tracy Austin and Hana Mandlikova and is postponed due to rain as Tracy leads 6-4.

The match of the day: Navratilova vs. Shriver.

## DAY NINE

### Czechoslovakia's day

THE upset of the day comes from the match that was postponed yesterday. Defending champion Tracy Austin is defeated by Hana Mandlikova. Tracy leads 3-1 after breaking Hana in the opening game.

But Hana comes back strongly. She breaks Tracy in the sixth and the tenth games to take the set at 1-4. She wins the next one on an identical score. Tracy has recovered from her shoulder ailment last Thursday. But it is evident that she is not match tough, due to the lack of match practice in the last few months. As usual, she is a graceful loser who gives full credit to Hana, without a mention of her injuries.

Chris Evert-Lloyd loses the first set against Bonnie Gadusek. For a moment, it looks as if another upset is on. Between the change over and the second set, Chris seems to have regained her will, though she looks weak as a result of the food poisoning.

She allows Bonnie to take only one game in the next two sets. With a

12-game streak she wins the match in style to move into the semi-finals.

Andrea Jaeger also loses her first set against Gretchen Rush, an 18-year-old amateur who has entered the tournament on a wild card. Gretchen wins the first set 6-3. Then it is Andrea's turn to sweep the next two at one and love.

Ivan Lendl has no difficulty in overcoming Kim Warwick in straight sets. The tough match against Mayotte and the win over Wilander seem to have affected the Australian's game.

John McEnroe serves 14 aces to overpower Gene Mayer tonight. The scores read 4-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. This is the first time someone has taken a set off McEnroe in this tournament. Gene plays a superb game, but John is even better.

The last game of the final set is a beauty. McEnroe serves two aces and then wins the next two points to win at love. Finally, John McEnroe seems to be back to form. He also has a few arguments with the officials and quite a bit of interaction with the crowd.

## DAY TEN

### New champions in men's doubles

SELDOM does a doubles match steal the show on a day when two major quarter-final matches are played. Today is just one of those rare days. The top seeded men's doubles team of John McEnroe and Peter Fleming, have already lost to Hank Pfister and Victor Amaya. The giant killers then take on third seeded Steve Denton and Kevin Curren. Normally, Curren of South Africa is the lead player of his doubles team. Today he is out of form and Steve Denton has had to take command.

The match is a cliff hanger. Pfister runs into trouble as his temper gets the better of him, but big Vic holds the fort admirably in critical moments. The first two sets are taken by the South African and his partner. In the third, Denton double faults to make it 30-40 and Amaya gratefully accepts the chance for the break. After a deuce he finishes the game to make it 5-7. That is the first break he and Pfister get in two sets and they win the fourth set conceding only two games.

In the fifth Amaya and Pfister come close to breaking their opponents as Denton serves at 4-3. They muff the opportunity, but hold serve to make it 5-4. Then Curren serves seven match points after leading 40-0, to finally win the title.

Jimmy Connors offers invaluable experience to Rodney Harmon and clean fun to the crowds in his quarter-final match. Harmon has been very lucky to be in the quarters as he had only one significant opponent, Teltscher, till then. The draw could

not have been more favourable. His university coach Dennis Ralston and Arthur Ashe had given him many a tip, which seems to confuse him. In the process, he forgets to play his uninhibited, natural game. He realises this only in the second half of the third set. But by now it is too late.

Guillermo Vilas has an easy match for a change. Tom Gullikson is allowed to take home his minimum wages—just six games in three sets. Frankly, it looks a terrible mismatch.

The match of the day: The men's doubles finals.

## DAY ELEVEN

### Chris routs Jaeger

CHRIS EVERT's win over Andrea Jaeger is not totally unexpected. Andrea has been in good form and one could take it for granted that Chris would win. Besides, Chris' physical condition is still suspect. But Jaeger makes it so easy for her. It takes only 75 minutes for the 27-year-old Chris to beat the girl 10 years her junior. Andrea's concentration is extremely poor. She takes one game in the first set and two in the second. It is a clean sweep for Miss Lloyd.

Pam Shriver and Hana Mandlikova provide an interesting match with their varied styles. The games and sets come and go quickly. Hana has the final say at 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. It is aggressive tennis at its best, from both the young women. Hana seems to have more determination and patience than usual.

There is another blow in store for Pam Shriver. She and Martina Navratilova go down in the doubles to Barbara Potter and Sharon Walsh, the number 5 seeds, in three sets. Shriver and Navratilova are the reigning Wimbledon champions and are seeded No. 1. Here, they got a walkover in the previous round as Chris Evert Lloyd and Billie Jean King decided to drop out. Pam's only chance of bringing some joy to her partner whom she knocked out of the tournament has just eluded her.

Rosie Cassals and Wendy Turnbull win the other semi-final of the women's doubles by beating Bettina Bunge and Claudia Khode. Pat Cash of Australia, who also participated in the men's division, takes the boys' title beating Guy Forget of France.

The match of the day: Shriver vs. Mandlikova.

## DAY TWELVE

### Chris crowned, McEnroe dethroned

THE main event of the day turns out to be the third match in which John McEnroe, the defending champion, meets his arch-rival Ivan

## The last decade

- 1971 Billie Jean King defeated Kerry Melville 6-3, 7-5
- 1972 Margaret Smith Court defeated Evonne Cawley 7-6, 5-7, 6-2
- 1973 Billie Jean King defeated Evonne Cawley 6-2, 6-2, 7-5
- 1974 Chris Evert defeated Evonne Cawley 6-3, 6-2, 5-3
- 1975 Chris Evert defeated Wendy Turnbull 7-6, 6-2
- 1976 Chris Evert defeated Pam Shriver 7-5, 6-4
- 1977 Tracy Austin defeated Chris Evert-Lloyd 6-4, 6-2
- 1978 Chris Evert-Lloyd defeated Hana Mandlikova 6-3, 4-6, 6-1
- 1979 Tracy Austin defeated Martina Navratilova 1-6, 7-6, 7-6
- 1980 Elie Mantase defeated Arthur Ashe 3-6, 6-3, 6-7
- 1981 Westcombe defeated Jan Kodes 6-4, 7-5, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3
- 1982 Connors defeated Ken Rosewall 6-1, 6-6, 6-1
- 1983 Connors defeated Jimmy Connors 6-4, 6-3, 6-3
- 1984 Jimmy Connors defeated Bjorn Borg 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4
- 1985 Guillermo Vilas defeated Jimmy Connors 2-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4
- 1986 Jimmy Connors defeated Bjorn Borg 6-4, 6-2, 6-2
- 1987 John McEnroe defeated Vitas Gerulaitis 7-5, 6-3, 6-3
- 1988 John McEnroe defeated Bjorn Borg 7-6, 6-1, 6-7, 5-7, 6-4
- 1989 John McEnroe defeated Bjorn Borg 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3

Lendl McEnroe loses in three sets 4-6, 4-6, 6-7.

Chris Evert Lloyd routes Hana Mandlikova 6-3, 6-1. Jimmy Connors beats Guillermo Vilas 6-1, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. For the first time in this tournament one sees Jimmy Connors pumping himself up after winning big points.

Jaime Fillol of Chile wins the above 35 men's tournament beating Colin Dibley, and Billie Jean King takes the corresponding women's title.

The junior girls final is a heart-break. Gretchen Rush, a major sensation in the women's division, is beaten by Beth Herr, a fellow American. Beth also wins the girls' doubles with Penny Baig.

Two American boys, Jonathan Canter and Michael Kures, take the boys' doubles title beating Pat Cash.

Kathy Rinaldi still a long way to go



and John Frawley of Australia.

India's Ramanathan Krishnan and American Gene Scott lose to Fred Stolle of Australia and Pancho Segura in the senior men's doubles semi-finals.

## DAY THIRTEEN

### The return of the king

IT is a bad day for young Barbara Potter, one of the most charismatic players of the women's circuit. She and Sharon Walsh lose the doubles to Rosie Cassals and Wendy Turnbull. Then, after three tie-breakers, Barbie and Ferdi Taygan lose the mixed doubles to Anne Smith and Kevin Curren.

Then Jimmy Connors brings the world back to 1974.









AP

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA

# Srikkanth stars as India canter home

HARESH MUNWANI reports

IT was not the best of ways to begin the cricket season. But with the ever-increasing engagements against international sides, the Board of Control for Cricket in India has bypassed the growing needs of domestic need in favour of the money-spinning Test matches.

Roger Binny and Srikkanth's task of opening the innings was made easier because De Mel and V John were wayward in their direction. Srikkanth in particular was severe on the erring bowlers and scored at a galloping pace. He was able to pierce the gaps and reach the fence frequently. It was a highly effective knock and suited to the requirements of one-day cricket. And though Srikkanth was not always on top of the ball while hitting it, he ensured that the scoring rate was rather brisk. As long as he was there a little under seven runs were coming per over. Of the 57 Srikkanth got off 43 deliveries, there were 10 fours and a six.

India lost her first wicket in the ninth over at 62, when Binny was surprisingly given leg before after being hit a bit high on the right leg after De Mel's delivery came in sharply. Both, John and De Mel, bowled a generous amount of wides and no-balls, with the latter conceding 38 runs in only five overs. Following Srikkanth's departure at 95, the Indian innings lost its momentum. Vengsarkar, Ashok Malhotra and Sandeep Patil could not capitalize on the goodwork of Srikkanth, adding 67 runs between themselves in 17 overs.

Vengsarkar was out trying to loft at 24, caught at long on because the ball did not come off from the middle of the bat. Malhotra went for 40, in a bid to chip an over pitched ball and was bowled.

Kapil Dev and Yashpal, aided by some good running between the wickets, ensured that the good start of the innings was not wasted. Kapil to his own standards played a restrained knock of 49. The quick found Yashpal was unbeaten at 37 when the Indian innings ended at 269 for seven off 46 overs. The Indian total was denied 15 to 20 runs because some of the batsmen neither showed the urgency to take quick singles nor the speed to convert twos into threes. Except for Vengsarkar, Kapil and Yashpal, the running between the wickets of the others was a

bit casual for limited-overs cricket. And except for Warnapura, who had two for 41 off ten overs and Ratnayake to some extent, the other Sri Lanka bowlers erred in line and length.

And with the Sri Lankans losing Warnapura in the fourth over to Madan La' the fate of the match was never in doubt. Warnapura played a rather ambitious drive too early in the innings. After the eighth over, Kapil replaced himself with Binny and Mohinder was introduced into the attack after Madan had completed a six-over stint. Wettimuny and Roy Dias got some respite as a result.

Sri Lanka's 50 came off 13.2 overs, which was six overs more than what India had got theirs in. Dilip Doshi, bowling with his customary guile, was the most successful bowler on the Indian side, capturing four wickets for 44 in his stipulated 10 overs. Not giving the ball much air, Doshi more often than not, had the batsmen guessing as to what the ball would do.

Three good catches in the outfield lifted India's standard of fielding, two by Madan and one by Yashpal. Roy Dias lifted Doshi and Yashpal, positioned at long off finding the ball dropping, ran 20 yards to make the catch. Madugalle mistimed a Doshi delivery and Madan at mid-wicket ran backwards to mid-on. On another occasion De Mel aimed to clear the long-on fence off a Doshi delivery when Madan just plucked the ball out of the air. At the end of 46 overs Sri Lanka were eight down for 191, being totally outplayed by India.

India 269 for seven (Srikkanth 57, Malhotra 40, Kapil 49, Yashpal 37).

Sri Lanka 191 for eight (Wettimuny 43, Dias 39, Mendis 33, Ranasinghe 35, Doshi four for 44).

**D**ESPITE being under pressure of having to score six runs an over, India coasted to a surprisingly comfortable—and convincing—victory over Sri Lanka in the one day international at Delhi.

After losing Binny early in the innings, out leg before to De Mel while trying to go for a big hit to leg, Srikkanth played some attractive and authoritative shots. The 50 of the innings came up in 7.2 overs, the 100 in 14.2 and the 150 in just 21.2 overs. Such was Srikkanth's domina-

tion.

Displaying a better ball-selection for his shots than he had done at Amritsar—where he had scored 57—Srikkanth lived up to his well-earned reputation of being ideally suited to limited-overs cricket. He required mere 33 deliveries to notch up his half-century. All bowling came alike to him.

Tragically, as he approached his eighties, Srikkanth was a bit exhausted and his concentration wavered and consequently, his running between the wickets suffered. It is at these times that a batsman needs luck. But unfortunately for Srikkanth, it was not his day and he was denied a richly deserved century. At 85 he survived a difficult chance to Ranasinghe off the bowling of Warnapura. But it was obvious that the body was not following the instructions of the brain, when two overs later Srikkanth drove a ball to extra cover without getting his feet to the pitch of the ball and was caught. Srikkanth's tally at that stage was 95, made in 66 balls, decorated with one six and 13 hits to the pickets.

Even though it was just the 23rd over that brought about Srikkanth's dismissal, the score was an imposing 160 and the issue was settled in India's favour there and then, barring the unforeseen. As a result the rest of the match was devoid of interest.

Vengsarkar, who added 134 for the second wicket along with Srikkanth, started off with rightful circumspection. Cutting out all flourish in the earlier part of his innings Vengsarkar relied solely on placement. It was only after he had gauged the pace of the wicket and ensured that the initiative stayed with his team, that he hit a six and four boundaries and eventually ended with 53.

Patil joined Malhotra at the fall of Dilip Vengsarkar's wicket. Both batsmen were content to score in ones and twos rather than resort to ambitions of strokeplay. As India at that stage still needed 111 runs.

Patil played a rather subdued knock and it was only when India were virtually home that Patil cleared the boundary twice. Patil contributed 4 and Malhotra was unbeaten with 44 useful runs.

As for the wicket at Delhi, it was a good batting track which made the bowler's task unenviable. No single bowler on either side made a signifi-

cant impression and an omnipresent breeze didn't exactly help them either.

The Sri Lanka captain Warnapura earlier won his third consecutive toss in as many matches on the tour and decided to take first strike. From a personal viewpoint that was all that Dame Luck had to offer to him. In the very third over of the innings Kapil was able to convince the umpire about the direction of his delivery which had been blocked by Warnapura's right leg.

But Wettimuny and Dias denied any further success to the Indian bowlers and took up the task of building up a total that would give Sri Lanka a good chance. In an attractive partnership that yielded 170 runs, Wettimuny and Dias made the Indian bowling look pedestrian. And though Dias was the more adventurous of the two, both bats-

men kept the score-board constantly moving with singles and twos, to achieve a run-rate of five an over.

That the Indian bowling and fielding had wilted under the pressure was soon confirmed when Kapil introduced the gentle off spin of Yashpal Sharma, more known for his batting, making him the seventh bowler to be employed in the innings. At the total score of 92 Doshi failed to catch Dias off his own bowling. Even Kirmani, who had kept so well at Amritsar, started erring.

But Kirmani soon made amends for his lapses and the vagaries of the bounce in the wicket on two occasions. His leg-side stumping of Ranasinghe off Madan Lal's bowling was unbelievable. His presence of mind accounted for the other dismissal De Mel, who was going great guns for his 28, backed off too soon after a Kapil

delivery passed Goonatilke on the leg side, but Kirmani, who was stretched out on all fours, recovered quickly and threw the ball back to the bowler and De Mel never had an iota of a chance to recover ground.

Lake at Amritsar, where they had scored 43 and 39, Wettimuny and Dias made 74 and 102 at Delhi, to prop up the Sri Lanka total. It was a good effort by any standards but the tourists hadn't contended Srikanth. The only Indian bowler who came through the exercise with his reputation somewhat intact was Kapil Dev, that is if you don't count Yashpal as a bowler.

Sri Lanka 278 for eight in 50 overs (Dias 102, Wettimuny 74, De Mel 28, Ranasinghe 20, Binny three for 39, Kapil two for 41, Madan two for 51).

India 281 for four in 40.5 overs (Srikanth 95, Vengsarkar 53, Patil 64, Malhotra 44 not out)

## Major changes were on the cards

THE face and profile of the Board of Control for Cricket in India will be decisively changed on 25 and 26 September and beyond recognition, too. Out of the straitened body will emerge a brand new Board with a completely new set of office-bearers whose performance for the year of stewardship of cricket will be judged at the time of the election.

Was a statement for the year and for the year to come, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will be re-elected on 25 and 26 September. The Board, which has been in existence since 1933, will be re-elected for a five-year term.

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disillusioned and lost whatever little they had for the management. The establishment candidates were chosen but the rival faction, led by Mr. L.J.S. Bhandra, President of the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) and Mr. Jagmohan Dabhi, Secretary of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), received that they should fight a still grimmer fight to top the list. According to the Board, more than 10 affiliated associations, including the Punjab Cricket Association and the Cricket Association of Bengal, had expressed their disapproval of the Board's management.

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tant by profession, in place of Mr. M. A. Chinnabaram who has been largely instrumental for the healthy finances of the Board. Mr. Dabhi is as shrewd, if not more, in figures as 'Mac' and the Board's financial stature will in no way suffer.

The five-member selection committee, which has bungled more often than not, will be completely changed. Their latest fumbling in selecting Sunil Gavaskar, when he was still in plaster, showed that the selection committee had lost touch. Mr. Gavaskar and Kohli for the rest of the Test series. A third cricketer should have been selected to replace a finger. Gavaskar, even when he suffers from a finger, has in the case of the Indian cricket. Gavaskar's selection committee did not even bother to find out whether he was fit to play or not. His leg injury was the result of an international competition.

The Board's new committee, based on democratic principles and performance of ex-Test cricketers, should possibly be: Sunil Gavaskar (West Zone), Pravin Mehta (East Zone), Sunil Gavaskar (North Zone), Sunil Gavaskar (Central Zone), Sunil Gavaskar (South Zone). The committee members were appointed and their balanced team for the year to come. How this new committee will function, only time will indicate.

K. R. WADHWANEY



## NATWEST BANK TROPHY FINAL

# Surrey corner the interest

IT seemed pleasant to think of the serpentine queues at Lord's as early as 8.30, which are exaggeratedly punctual here in England, and the warm wait of toasts, beans and coffee when ambling down St John's Wood Road for the finale. Ladbroke's made much of the game between Surrey and Warwickshire, not that the spectators didn't, I'd be surprised if more than a handful of the Counties had better batting sides than Warwickshire—in paper, that is—and howling line-ups with Surrey to beat. And memories of that final of 1981 between Derbyshire and Northamptonshire had been just too recent to give the organisers any goose flesh over dwindling gate receipts and cricketing indifference.

By all considerations it should have been a needle match. But Warwickshire, batting first, spluttered just too early and the issue was never in doubt even after an hour from the start. Much is ascribed to the fact that the NatWest game commenced at 10 o'clock when the powers of the elements appeared much in evidence. But not to imply that Warwickshire were unlucky to lose the toss and be asked to bat. Most of them played tank shirts, calling for the down themselves and to think that some of Warwickshire's sentinels were also Test players who had done their countries proud! The board couldn't have read anything worse than 28 for eight with no promising batting to come round the bend but Asif Durrani and Gladstone Small fixed themselves in and proved that batting was never as impossible as their predecessors had mysteriously made it out to be. 'Gunga' Din at number six chipped in with 45 while Small lent adequate support with a fairly big 33. Warwickshire finished at a paltry 158 all out off 57.2 overs and a fight never really looked to be on unless, as the savans collectively agreed, Willis and his sidekicks got the ball up and kicking and pitched their rivals in for some soup.

Earlier, the slide had begun with Lloyd. He began by retreating towards the stumps to a springy Jackman only in the third over when he should have been down the pitch to him. It took some more time before it took disaster to hit the fan. Dennis Amiss played a Sunday cross-batter to Thomas, missed—then the inevitable—while David Smith slipped onto his stumps while playing Thomas again. That seemed pretty costly for a County in which Smith had

done most of the earth work in the preceding round and momentarily brought to mind that cardinal facet that ought to be paid more attention these days. In his days, Bradman used to make it a point to inspect every player's spikes before loading his team out in the field. Here, Smith had obviously forgotten the use of wearing ones with them on. Perhaps, Willis will recall Bradman in Australia this winter more often. Should



Alan Butcher—substantial contribution

And to climax the morning of despair for Willis' cadre Kalicharran went, too, snapped up sharply in the slips by Howarth off Knight. Such was the quickness of the movement on the part of the New Zealander that later, it did not seem too difficult to imagine how he must have scored his half a dozen Test hundreds for Kiwiland.

The last hopes of a revival and subsequent victory, thus, by an elementary process of elimination

tell on the broad shoulders of Geoff Humpage. Normally, an exuberant cricketer with a fine sense of timing, he could have delivered the package but he opted for a search outside the off stump, nicked and was taken behind. Oliver ran himself out rather clumsily and Anton Ferreira became the victim of an untidy decision and after that Warwickshire just never looked like making it.

And while the teams changed roles much of the rhubarbbing around the sanctuary revolved not around whether Surrey would or would not be able to make it but whether David Thomas would to Australia. He had bowled particularly well here, left-handed and over the wicket fast bouncer and greatly uncomfortable to negotiate. He had reduced the opponents in the 13th, 15th and 17th overs and in the specific length his wickets of Smith, Amiss and Humpage had come off at the expense of only one run. And not without reason was Denis Compton, impressed, he was to later name him as the Man of the Match.

But you bet that among the staunchest of Warwickshire present at the ground there had been whinings of 'Oh but you should have seen it we had won the toss which smouldered quite stupid when you consider that most of Warwickshire's men had succumbed to bad batting and the atmospheric advantages were much less—the marginally moving ball proves so—than what is normally expected of a September morning. And about the 10 o'clock starts, too, there had been no muted protests but that was horn out of the players' own lethargy to ensure faster overs during the day. Earlier, they used to have 65 overs of batting per side, beginning the day's crossfire at 11 in the morning, now they start at 10 to bowl just 60 each!

Surrey began in right earnest and never did they look like flunking it. They were off to 115 by the 25th over for only one wicket's loss, that of Howarth's. The rain battered away to a further required 44 with Butcher moving on to 86 and Smith keeping his place safe to the extent of 28. And when Alan Butcher finally did hit Kalicharran down to the nursery at 5.12 p.m. it was all over.

But for once there were no pitch invasions, hero huggings and all you can make up after a pulling at the heart strings. The two batsmen came in as if leading their little pups out for a post prandial walk to the park and back. What was more, the sun was still shining.

But I gather that many of Warwickshire's rooters had, by the time of leaving, already reconciled themselves to the fact that the team that fields first almost always wins. How else could anyone explain that only twice were expectations reversed. Even the Law of Averages were after Warwickshire as one po-faced put it!



To commemorate the Asian Games, State Bank salutes the unknown and unsung sportsman.

## The Marathoner



*He'll never be out of the running. Retirement has not robbed him of his vitality. Only the direction has changed. For instance, instead of playing on the office Cricket 'c eleven' he challenges his grandson to a game of Table Tennis. Instead of slogging '9 to 5' as a mere cog in a large organisation he works on his own poultry farm. Having saved for years with State Bank, he found it easy to arrange a loan to start this small but thriving business. He's quite a cheerful person. The only time he scowls is when you ask him his age. Or catch him with his spectacles on. Because he doesn't want to be known as 60 years old. He's only 60 years young!*

  
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Security is warm feeling

CHAITRA SHI 77





# Cricket's private army

**GERALD PAWLE** writes on Sir Julien Cahn, owner of a private cricket team much before Kerry Packer did his rounds

**E**W SWANION has accurately described the activities of Sir Julien Cahn's XI as 'a modern cricket phenomenon without parallel'. Although country house cricket still survived with surprising vigour in the last decade before the Second World War, no reasonable comparison could be made between Sir Julien's promotions and the elegant, essentially amateur fixtures staged on such lovely grounds as Pelsham, Ferry Hill, and Hovingham at Marchwiel and Halyport, or, for that matter, on my grandfather's ground at Widford in Hertfordshire, where intriguing local rules were observed and fielders would run in frenzied circles round a large walnut tree waiting to catch the ball as it bounced from branch to branch.

On these Elysian fields the cricket was often of the highest class, but the possibility of defeat rarely clouded the enjoyment of the match. Not so with Sir Julien whose teams, packed with test players, were sent on to battle with orders to win by the largest possible margin, even against the most inferior opposition. In this task they were often hampered by their captain who, to quote Swanion's charming and generous understatement, was 'unlensed with any natural ability in the game', his bowling was 'inordinately slow and quite without intrinsic merit'. Into this extraordinary ménage a youthful all-rounder named F B Reddick found his way in 1940 on the demise of Aubrey Faulkner's School of Cricket where he and Ian Peebles had been on the staff. Tommy Reddick played with much success for Sir Julien until the War and although his subsequent career involved county cricket with Notts, a spell as chief coach at Old Trafford, and then a long and happy employment in South Africa, where he was widely regarded as the outstanding cricket coach of his time, a much travelled life brought him no experience quite so remarkable as his bizarre and demanding apprenticeship with the Cahn circus. In Cape Town over the years we often talked about those days. Now that Sir Julien Cahn's XI has become part of the mythology of the game Tom Reddick's reminiscences gave a striking picture of what might be described as sponsored country

house cricket.

Still in his teens, Reddick found himself a member of a distinguished and colourful band. 'Playing in most of the games were I C W ('Lofty') Newman, a tremendous batsman who often opened with the New Zealander Roger Blunt, and scored some 15,000 runs for Cahn; F Summers, of Richmond, a prodigious hitter who scored over 13,000; C S Dempster (New Zealand); C R Maxwell, who came straight from school at Brighton; Denys Morkel (South Africa); H R Munt, a quickish bowler who looked after Julien's wines and entertainment; and the Australian trio, Harold Mudge, Jack Walsh, and Vic Jackson. There were also R W V Robins, George Heane, later captain of Notts; Ian Peebles, and in the mid 1930s the South African fast bowler Bob Crisp.

John Gunn was the 'cam's umpire, and another Notts player, Tich Richmond, took a tremendous number of wickets for us. In the winter most of us were assigned to jobs in Sir Julien's vast business empire. I was one of the very few with an agreement, and finished up by managing 12 furniture shops in the South of England.' By the time Reddick joined the staff they had two first-class grounds to play their home matches on—Stanford Hall, Cahn's lavishly laid out estate near Nottingham and Loughborough Road ('the best wicket I ever saw'), closer to the city. 'Early in one game there,' said Reddick, 'a ball lifted while Sir Julien was batting—the only ball I ever saw behave unexpectedly in nine years. Immediately the groundsmen were summoned and a tremendous inquest was held on the spot.'

When Reddick first joined this remarkable retinue Sir Julien Cahn was in his middle forties. A frail figure of medium height, he was something of a dandy who wore exquisitely tailored suits and monogrammed silk shirts. When batting he used metal leg guards and he donned inflatable pads before facing fast bowling.

A rector taller, he ate sparingly. Although he smoked innumerable cigars he invariably threw them away soon after lighting them. His lifestyle was impressive. A decidedly insecure horseman, this did not deter him from hunting, and he was in

turn Master of the Burton, the Woodland Pychley, and the Fernie. It was estimated that hunting and cricket alone cost him at least £50,000 a year. He was capable of great generosity, lavishly supporting hospitals and charities, and on his home grounds he refused to take a gate. Collections went either to charity or to cricketers' benefit funds.

'I remember playing against the West Indians,' Reddick recalled. 'We lost two wickets quickly and the light was fading. Maxwell and I were ordered to stay there for half an hour so that a collection could be taken for Bill Vane, but we were up against Constantine and Martindale and I could not time them at all. All I could hear was the zfft zfft zfft as the ball passed me but Max hit these two out of sight and our jobs were safe for another day.'

'There were invariably hilarious for if anything he was a worse conductor than he was a cricketer. Assisted by the household electrician, he would attempt trick after trick and never quite get the sequence right. His favourite illusion, involving a bowl of disappearing goldfish, was a spectacular failure, but as the routine was conducted with the utmost solemnity it was irresistibly funny and was always cheered to 'he echo'. Once Reddick gained a regular place in the side he became one of its most prolific rungetters, scoring over 1500 runs in three successive seasons—but you have no idea of the strain we played under.' Against Warwickshire in a roaring gale a ginger-haired bowler was swinging the ball fantastically. I was soon out and in came Maxwell, one of the most brilliant batsman wicketkeepers I have ever seen. 'Don't worry, Sir Julien,' he said as he left the pavilion, 'just leave it to me.' He was out immediately and we barely struggled past the hundred.

Cahn sent for his right-hand man, Lofty Newman. 'Maxwell and Tom my Reddick will never play in my side again,' he ordered. Enraged by this unexpected defeat he then departed to Monte Carlo to try out a gambling system just bought.

As it happened, he made some money and when he came back I went to Newman to find out the loom. Had I really been sacked? Newman said he honestly didn't know. 'Just lie low, don't do anything, don't say anything.'

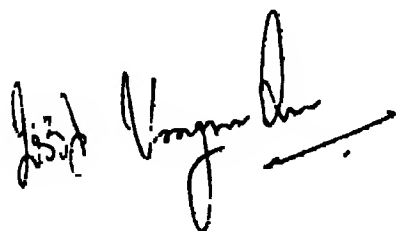
'When we arrived at Loughborough Road for the next match I kept out of sight while Julien tossed and then Lofty produced a blank team sheet. When they got to number 4 I thought my fate was sealed but Newman suggested me at number 5 and Cecil Maxwell at 6. Not a murmur! So Newman stepped back into the pavilion and shouted—'You're in!' This was absolutely typical of the kind of situation we had to cope with regularly.'

Courtesy: Wisden Cricket Monthly

Dilip Vengsarkar comments:

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## 'Bhaskar the prime target

**SUPRAKASH GHOSH** examines what is really behind Magan Singh's recent denouncement of Bhaskar Ganguly and some other national players

INDIA'S failure at the Seoul tournament and the debacle of the Merdeka campaign have considerably lowered our prestige in Asian soccer circles. Even the organisers of the latter competition have declined not to invite India to the tournament next year.

It goes without saying that these sad experiences have shattered the confidence of our footballers who have spared no effort to improve their skills at the preparatory camps held so far. Therefore, the need of the hour is to rise above all our petty group politics and regional interests and once again try to inspire the sagging morale of the national team.

But the top officials of our football administrative bodies—the self-proclaimed well-wishers of the game—do not seem to be aware of all this. The diseases of regionalism and of unbecoming nepotism have poisoned the atmosphere of disapproval. The recent criticism of Bhaskar's appointment by Mr Magan Singh is a case in point. Such actions only succeed in darkening the muddy water of Indian football and instilling doubts in the minds of the players as well.

The most important question haunting soccer fans today is: Mr Magan Singh's denouncement of Bhaskar—the present captain of the national team—is whether there is a deep-rooted conspiracy to breed dissunity in the Indian team and thereby dislodge the number one goalkeeper of the country from the captaincy of the national eleven.

In fact, the question of captaincy has always been a bone of contention in the top echelons of the All India Football Federation. But strangely, by way of comparison, the rivalry among the players in this regard is less fierce. They may have kept clear of this delicate issue, but the self-appointed guardians of the game have never missed an opportunity to create an issue out of it. Bitter feuds have resulted even though the post of the captain in soccer is not as important as in some other games.

Charges of regionalism have been raised, and the AIFI office bearers have taken great pains to prove that they are false and motivated. But seldom have their efforts met with success. The reason is simple: their defence has never been strong enough. Nor their actions have ever

corroborated with these statements.

At present Magan Singh's condemnation of Bhaskar Ganguly after the Indian team's humiliation at Kuala Lumpur can definitely be described as a case in point. He has criticised Bhaskar in such a way that it seems as if he was solely responsible for the debacle of the football team there.

The fact is that the whole team failed miserably to live up to the expectations. In every department—defence, midfield and offence—our performance had been incredibly poor and what made our defeat all the more disgraceful was our failure to score a single goal.

Why then should the blame be put



squarrel on Bhaskar? Magan Singh has not only criticised Bhaskar for his poor performance, but has also demanded his replacement as the number one goalkeeper by Brahma-nand of Goa, thus placing responsibility for our sorry showing rests on the shoulders of each and every member of the side.

Does this mean that Bhaskar will be deprived of the captaincy of the national team during the Asian Cup? Some of the AIFI office bearers in people in close touch with the organisation would deny that there was an attempt within the federation to foul Bhaskar's selection as the skipper. In an interview with this correspondent published in *Sportsworld*, Ashok Kumar, the AIFI secretary, admitted that a number of people were very much against Bhaskar's appointment as the leader of the team. He also disclosed that he along

with some other members of the technical committee had to try hard to persuade the anti-Bhaskar lobby to accept him as the skipper. Though some stalwarts like the national coach P. K. Banerjee had no doubts at all about Bhaskar's ability to function with competence in that role. Yet, as learnt from reliable sources, the dissenters never accepted him as the captain.

Even more disquieting, there was a rumour that the pro-Bhaskar group managed to secure his captaincy only after an understanding was reached with the opposing officials. Apparently, Bhaskar would be retained as captain only till the Merdeka tournament regardless of how he fared in the meantime. It seemed that it was only a matter of time before the question of seniority would be raised and Harpinder brought into the limelight.

In fact, Harpinder was the candidate of the anti-Bhaskar group. But Harpinder has figured more prominently on the injury list than on the players list. Otherwise, he could perhaps have been the skipper during the Nehru Gold Cup itself.

Other sources close to the administrative body of the game think that the Magan Singh statement is just another step in the road to Bhaskar's ouster. In the words of a respected veteran of all India standing who wished to remain anonymous: 'You must have noticed that though Magan Singh has blamed some other players also, mostly belonging to Bengal, his main target has been nobody else but Bhaskar, as if he was solely to blame for the poor showing. They must have somebody else in mind like Harpinder or Shalbir for the post of captain and will go to any lengths to fulfil their purpose.' He also added: 'I believe that once they can ensnare Bhaskar's ouster, they will stop criticising the other players, because their criticism of these players in reality directed at Bhaskar. Bhaskar is then prime target—there is no doubt about that.'

Whatever might have been the case, Magan Singh's condemnation of Bhaskar and his demand for the goalkeeper's demotion in the number two position have annoyed a number of football veterans. 'This is nothing but a predetermined move to deny Bhaskar the captaincy of the national team during the Asian Cup. It must be stopped forthwith,' said an angry Chuni Goswami when asked to comment on it. He asked: 'Who is Magan Singh? He is only a cloth merchant. What does he know of football? It is only by virtue of being a 'chamcha' of Ziauddin that he has acquired so much power today. That is the only reason why I'm so concerned about what he says these days about our national players. He must be working according to a design. Otherwise I would not have paid any attention to his opinions about football.'

**MRF MONSOON RALLY**

# The drive to win

**T**HE three sectors of the enigmatically flavoured MRF Monsoon Rally, conducted by the Calcutta Motor Sports Club covered a picturesque distance of 1,200 kilometers. The route was intelligently chosen. The rally ended in Calcutta in the early hours of the morning of Monday September 13—over 36 hours after the flag-off of the first car from the Rahindia Sarphal Open Air Theatre on Saturday September 11.

This premier Eastern India motor rally was accorded the status of a national event. However, certain happenings will soon be forgotten while a few unsavoury occurrences will not go into oblivion overnight. Before initiating the launching of bouquets and huzzahs one would like to compliment the clerk of the course Arindam Ghosh, the 1981 Karnataka 1000 winner for dialling out an enthralling route. At the same time, the young organisers will have to admit and learn from some of this year's mistakes. Searching for non-existent scapegoats will not yield the desired results.

It is unfortunate, that the second phase of the competitive second sector had to be called off and instead the rallyists were given a "free-run" from Bara Jamba to Jamshedpur on the afternoon of Sunday, September 12.

Some might choose to target their potent missiles on the rally but it

should be borne in mind that motor rallying is coming of age, if not in the entire country then at least in the near-eastern States of India. This correspondent, who was a part of the Press contingent which accompanied the rallyists, was frequently a witness to hundreds of people assembling on certain stretches of the rally route. They came out out of ignorance but awareness. One should not bring them to book for gaping in sheer admiration and astonishment at the multi-coloured rally cars which rocketed out of their sight at regular intervals.

The members of the 100th State were at the receiving end of a *tamasha* which found them making the first sector (Calcutta-Jamshedpur) entirely on their own. We completed this sector on our own expertise. Though the organisers had been kind in allotting a Press car, they bungled in not providing the Pressmen with the rally route and overlooked the fact that copies of the list of competitors were essential and should also have been issued. All that we knew was that 63 vehicles had been flagged off from the starting point.

However, the arrangements at the end of the first sector in the Jamshedpur suburb of Adityapur were excellent. It is here that the 'Pac Ferme' was situated and the cars were 'unprisoned' for a couple of hours. The organisation of the

second sector, however, was in a state of near collapse after a certain period of time. No one knew precisely what was happening, not even the marshalls 'stranded' at the time controls. Things reached such a stage that instead of the Press asking the marshalls as to what was cooking, it was the other way round.

From what this correspondent was able to gather, there was widespread discontent among the rallyists who were cheesed off at the way the rally was conducted in the second sector. One also heard that a few drivers had threatened to turn and head straight back to Calcutta. According to Ravi Singhania, a national motor racing body steward the second part of the second sector should have started at 12 noon but instead "the first car started only at 1.30 p.m." It is learnt that marshalls were not given the closing time of controls.

A section of the motorcyclists were in a militant mood on their arrival back in Jamshedpur on Sunday evening. They were disgusted at a few incidents prominent among which was that Dead Time Control had been declared just a few kilometers away from the end of a particular sector. According to them, they were made to unnecessarily halt for an hour and this resulted in lethargy creeping in. One of the organisers at the Jamshedpur control point said "Giving them lunch and bringing them (the rallyists) down to Jamshedpur in a convoy has thankfully cooled the drivers'."

While covering the first part of the second sector we halted at a place called Kargui, 118 kilometers from the Steel City. Here we encountered the crew of car number 6 who were trying to make the best of a bad situation. They had a mishap which had smashed their car's radiator and fan belt. The thoroughly defunct but were made to cool their heels under more or less inspiring conditions.

The weather gods were kind right through and except for a few spells of rain the rallyists were not troubled by the vagaries of the weather. Most of the roads were fairly good, particularly the Bomnay Road (National Highway 6) which was covered during the first and third sectors. The rally received good support from the West Bengal Police who were stationed at strategic points in impressive numbers.

From the police, we came to the dacoits. Though one missed the opportunity of engaging them in an 'encounter' we nevertheless did intrude into their territory. This happened when we entered the infamous Lodhasuli jungle area. Quite alarmingly we came across a minor stony blockade immediately after our entry into the jungle. Our driver, Ashish Maity, however, found it easy to skirt around the stones.

Not everyone had the blessings of Dame Luck. Quite a few either drop



YOUNG & CO

ped out or were disqualified. Of the original 63 competitors who had been flagged off from Calcutta only 42 could start off from Jamshedpur on the second sector. This number was further reduced to 35—22 cars and 13 two-wheelers—which were flagged off from Jamshedpur for the return trip to Calcutta. The Army Jonga, car number 50, which many expected would do well was knocked out of the race a bare 148 kilometers from the start after an accident.

This rally was run at a fantastic pace throughout. The drivers took up the challenge of a tough route with a vengeance. They put in everything to come out on top as Arindam Ghosh commented, "we had such a fast race and yet there were no major casualties."

The successful completion of the rally is, without doubt, a feather in the CMSC cap. There is a distinct possibility that the next rally will rope in a much more substantial sponsorship from business houses. Now that it has been proved that a tough rally can be held in the eastern region, the organisers expect the leading drivers of the other centers to come and have a hash. This rally must surely be a milestone in the history of motor racing in Eastern India, at this, one has no doubt.

#### Results

##### FOUR-WHEELERS

1st	Bharat Parekh R Jindal Sujit Roy
2nd	Vijay Goenka Kiran Asif Ali R Agarwal R Tibrewal
3rd	Nani Gopal Chanda Ratan Sinha Dipankar Datta Tarit Roy
4th	Karanbir Singh Rishi Kumar Gaurav Swarup

##### TWO-WHEELERS

1st	Sushanta Karmakar Jayanta Das
2nd	Biswanath Saha Sanjoy Seal

L P SAHI

## Track fever hits Goa

WHEN the black and white checkered flag signalled a set of five motorcyclists, clad in race regalia, off with a deafening roar from souped up engines sans silencers in the "Renn Carls Monsoon Race" at Raia, it heralded the birth of a new sport in Goa. And if the flood of



Two enthusiastic contestants race round the bend to rousing cheers from the Sunday crowd

entrants for the Independence Day event was any yardstick, Motor Sports replete with spine-chilling thrills and daredevilry had made its debut.

Open to mobikes and cars the "Renn Carls Garage" race-cum-rally—the first of the kind in this territory—certainly proved no cake walk. The circuit mapped out by the organisers, Rennie Abreu and his German buddy Carl (both race enthusiasts), comprised an assortment of hair pin bends, water logged dirt track, highway and steep slopes.

It was an eight kilometre lap of sheer hell selected to test the grit and skill of competitors as also the sturdiness of their vehicles. In addition, a heavy monsoon downpour on the eve of the race only worsened matters, forcing organisers to hastily empty truckloads of rubble to "repair" stretches of washed away kutchra track.

Braving a mid-morning drizzle the large Sunday crowd let off a thunderous cheer as the ten motorcyclists were flagged off. Classification being no bar, motorbikes of various makes, such as Yezdi, Rajdoot, Enfield, Triumph 500, BSA Falcon 50, vied with one another for top honours in the two wheeler section. For two-wheeler there were two races—a 3-lap (24km) "elimination" run and the 5 lap (40km) grand finale. Four-wheeler had to compete in a 5-lap (40km) event.

As expected it was Herman Abreu astride the powerful Triumph 500 who rode home victorious in the 5-lap race covering the 40 km distance in 52 minutes 13½ seconds. Earlier Abreu also won the 3 lap race.

Poised on his powerful 500cc machine, Abreu skilfully coordinated body movement and speed to manoeuvre his bike on the treacherous curves, while gunning his machine on the straights to stay way ahead of the others. However, had the two Enfield "Bullets" and a Yezdi—bikes which may have rendered some challenge to the TR500 on the highway—not come a cropper, Herman would certainly have been

haid put to maintain his lead. Both riders of the Bullets took a bad toss when they slammed into a compound wall on a right-angled corner. Luckily they escaped with minor bruises.

The encounter for cars regaled wayside watchers. Flagged off at 30 seconds intervals, drivers fired engines and slid into gear to take off at tremendous speed round the first bend for a 5-lap stint of the rough circuit. The entrants included several vehicles of foreign make, VW, Vauxhall, DKW, Mercedes pitted against the Indian Mahindra Diesel Jeep, Fiats and Standard Gazels. Consequently, it was the Mahindra Jeep driven by Phillip Valadares who sped across the finishing line bagging the "Renn Carls Garage" shield and a cash award of Rs. 500. Valadares slammed his foot on the gas pedal and kept it there from the moment the starting flag waved him off.

The tight turns of the track were definitely brutal on tires, brakes and drivers. But Valadares dare-devil nerve saw him through the full 5-lap (40km) clocking a winning time of 46min 34 secs.

A vehicle that was a hot favourite for the top position—the DKW front-wheel drive driven by Antonio and Kevin—had to back out of the race after the engine stalled. Some miscreants had apparently tampered with the open contact points of the engine while the car lay idle awaiting the flag off. Yet another casualty was a Standard Gazel which completed the course minus the front hood—to bag a consolation prize for the hardest tier.

But motor-racing is dangerous—it says so on the entrance ticket to any major Grand Prix. Yet, the sport shall thrive for sports sake. As affirmed Phillip Valadares, winner of the four-wheeler event, "It isn't so much the prize money, which in this race was grossly inadequate, but the thrill of racing for sport that attract participants. Yet one has to spend much to prepare a car for a race or rally and any sort of sponsorship would be welcome."

LESLIE ST ANNE

"Now, as the dust settles, it's time to be honest about the World Cup time to pass judgement on Spain '82, look ahead with increasing concern to Colombia '86... and consider how to save the finals in 1990"—*Keith Radnedge*

"And now where do we turn next? To Colombia? To Bogota, that city of criminals and cripples where Bobby Moore was set up, and where you are likely to have the watch stolen off your wrist before you're even out of the airport? I don't think so"—*Brian Claville*

"There is an awful, grinding inertia at the top of international sports bodies which seems to mean that once a man has got to the top, however unsuitable he may be the only way you can get rid of him is by death, senility or bringing in the Third World to redress the balance of the Old"—*World Soccer*

"It is my firm belief that income tax will be abolished on the same day Scotland win a major honour in football"—*Alex Gordon*

"Zoff himself, at the age of 40 defied so many cynics with a calm, assured presence which formed the bedrock of his team's success. But the beauty of the side was their dash, panache, even impudence and the very embodiment of that play was Conti. The new spirit of Italy was the spirit of Conti"—*Derick Allsop*

"When Bearzot announced his side to confront West Germany in the final many Italian hearts sank. No Antonioni. The guiding light was gone"—*World Soccer*

"Lazio favourite Vincente D'Amico pushed

open the door and spilled long and hard at the party across the hall. Champagne corks were popping and his teammates were laughing and shouting. He didn't know what was happening... the World Cup triumph had prompted an amnesty for those involved in the 1979 betting and bribes scandal"—*World Soccer*

"Yes, I regret not being able to play a part in the World Cup. It was very bitter when I realised I wouldn't be able to go to Spain. But I have to thank them all. If they hadn't won the World Cup then this amnesty would never have come into effect"—*Bruno Giordano* after the announcement of amnesty



"If we had the choice none of us might have been here, and this run might give some people the idea that they can call the tune like this again and make us run"—*Sebastian Coe* on the Heinz British Games at Crystal Palace.



"All sports traditionally have to change, for instance in horse racing the naked eye couldn't see every finish, so they brought in the cameras. If two umpires are accepted by both countries they can have no reason to complain, and will accept mistakes as a human fault. In fact, in that case you accept it as bad luck"—*Imran Khan* supporting the suggestion that neutral umpires should be appointed

"It seems a fact in Test cricket all round the world that however well-intentioned the umpiring is, a certain home-town bias creeps in. To win overseas, the visiting side probably has to be as much as 15 per cent better than their opponents"—*Henry Blofeld*.

"The reason for his appointment was simple: practically every previous Warwickshire player with three Christian names who has played for England has gone on to lead the side, so R.G.D. Willis just had to get the nod to live up to historical precedent"—*Jonathan Rice*

"Where's your dog?"  
"Dog? What do you mean, Mr. Douglas?"

"...suddenly disappeared. I was seen without a white dog"—*Christopher Green* J. M. G. Le Clezio and an umpire who wrongly declared him out. *Mr. Douglas* is a very building, but not a low dog.

"Tortoise, I and cricketers have a laconic wisdom in common, an understanding of the futility of forever searching for lettuce, or forever trying to master the off-drive. Together we appreciate the need for a restful period, a time to forget all about being squashed by motor cars and Holding bumpers"—*Peter Roebuck*

"His (Mike Brearley) is as acute an intellect as any the game has known, but those who label him simply an intellectual fail to appreciate a warm humanity"—*John Arlott*



"Winning a million would be wonderful. But the Grand Slam. Now that's history-making"—*Martina Navratilova*.

"I think the biggest thing which hockey players in India suffer from is a lack of publicity"—*Arundhati*



# COUNT DOWN 9

## Publicity failure

**W**E do keep getting accounts from time to time of how our athletes are training in coaching camps for the Asian Games. Is it not also time we got to know of how we are preparing for the opening ceremony on which the public appear to have pinned high hopes, judging from the sale of tickets?

The association of sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar with the ceremony has, no doubt, given it the prestige that it deserves. But with all due respects to Panditji, he had better be warned in time about the fiasco that was the opening ceremony of the World Cup Hockey Championship last December. Unimaginative preparations, delayed till it was too late, marred the show at Bombay. The Astad '82 ceremony might be something as shoddy if they don't get going with the actual practice and rehearsals without the loss of another day.

Famous names like Ananda Shankar and that other noted choreographer Narendra Sharma are also going to be associated with the ceremony. But nobody seems to have a clear idea of what it will be like. Panditji is held in such high esteem that no one else will talk to the Press or even be bold enough to do anything else. One gathers that professional folk dancers from various States will be pressed into service and, therefore, it is assumed the choreographers have little to worry. But an opening ceremony at the Asian Games is not something like a stage performance in a

theatre. If this is all that the opening ceremony is going to be then it will hardly be one to remember. An opening ceremony at an international sports event should be a careful blend of physical culture, folk dance and music, with hundreds and thousands taking part in the spectacle out in the middle.

Little has been done to attract the foreign visitor, short films, eye-catching posters and attractive, well-written and expertly-produced literature should have started reaching other Asian countries long ago. Our missions abroad should have been pressed into service to advertise the event. But nobody appears to have cared to launch a drive of this nature or magnitude.

Every now and then Indian sportsmen have been going abroad on competition-cum-training tours. Each one of them should have been asked to carry publicity material and Appu souvenirs to be presented abroad to sportsmen against whom they competed and even to spectators. According to one official in the Astad set-up, little publicity material was produced in time so there was no question of sending it abroad.

Selling tickets and filling up stadia is not all. The message is the important thing. If international events have failed to generate lasting interest or build up a sporting ethos in our

country in the past it is because of our failure on the publicity front. Every post office, railway station and airport should have advertised the event. Every public vehicle, train and aircraft should have carried stickers and other literature, and there should have been an intensive drive in schools not simply to sell tickets but to spread sports consciousness in the names of the Games.

Every other day we hear some Games bigwig or the other telling us the crores and crores are being spent on the Asian Games which are aimed at building up interest for sport in Indian youth, or something to the effect. But with the publicity department of the Special Organising Committee (SOC) regarded like poor relations of the set up at Pragati Maidan little meaningful work has been achieved in this direction.

Rather than an SOC official speaking on subjects that he knows little about the message of sport would be more effectively spread if a film of an old Indian sporting hero is shown to school children in the remote corners of the country or one in actual flesh and blood is sent to talk to the kids. There will be many old sporting heroes willing to do their bit for the cause if only someone who matters remembered them.

The message is all



Timekeepers to the Nation



Watch Division



Timekeepers to the Nation



**Hunt**

**QUARTZ ELECTRONIC WATCHES**

If you've the inclination, we've the time!

The exact time!!

## Regional round-up

### DELHI

#### Manmeet excels in State T.T.

**H**IS head wrapped in a black "patka," Manmeet Singh strutted to the table. He meant business when he took on Nitin Puri in the men's singles final of the Delhi State Table Tennis Championships in the steamy St. Columbia's School hall. After 20 minutes of ruthless aggression he had added the State Title to his already bulging bag of trophies and crowns. Puri had been swept aside 21-8, 21-12, 21-18.

If the third game was flatteringly close for Puri, it was only because the ceremonies to receive the Chief Guest had upset Manmeet's concentration.

This season Manmeet looks very fit, having filled out handsomely from adolescence to early manhood. While this biological process was taking place, Manmeet has also perfected the weapon of the backhand smash which he executes with amazing suddenness from both near the table and at varying distances from it. There is also great variety of spin.

In the semi-finals earlier, Manmeet had made short work of Sunil Vaswani, winner of the St. Columbia's Tournament, in three straight games while Puri had put it across Manjit Dua 22-20, 14-21, 21-14, 21-18. Earlier, junior Rajan Vaish had stolen the thunder with victories over Anil Joshi in the fourth round and fifth seed Munish Magrath in the pre-quarters.

Vaish's giant-killing run came to an end when he was beaten by Puri in the quarter-finals, but not before he had taken the fourth seeded senior to five games. Vaish, winner of the St. Columbia's Junior Title, went down to Rajat Kumar in the boys' singles semi-finals, 21-15, 14-21, 17-21, 18-21. Rajat went on to win the boys' final, beating Sanjay Modi in a fight remarkable for pace and aggressive intent.

Left handed Tina Sudan became the State women's champion, brushing aside the challenge of Chanchal Malik in the final. It was all over in a matter of minutes. Chanchal had earlier created a stir by beating top seeded Meena Bora in the semi-finals.

#### Gurcharan's great job

**T**HE Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association broke fresh ground when they organised a three week coaching camp for its junior cricketers at Srinagar under the supervi-

sion of Gurcharan Singh, the Cricket Board coach for North Zone. Kashmir has singularly lacked success at any level of the game, and one hopes the interest generated by the camp will do good to the game in the State.

Sudarshan Mehta, a right-handed middle order batsman, was adjudged the "most outstanding" among the "campers" under Gurcharan, who also found in Narinder Pal Singh, a highly promising "Bedi-type" left arm slow spin bowler. In fact, so well is he rated that if only Maninder Singh of Delhi had not been operating in the north, Narinder Pal might well have played for his zonal team. A glutton for work, the lad's long distance training runs could do credit to a marathon runner.

Another service Gurcharan has done to cricket in the State is his analysis of the drawbacks. The Board's coach is reported to have pinpointed the lack of good equipment—this, ironically, in the very home of Indian willow—good wicketers, both for matches and practice, and the absence of coaching activity. It was at Gurcharan's instance that the camp was shifted from Srinagar Stadium to the Amar Singh Club ground. The State has a few NIS trained coaches, but these men, one learns with regret, have not been able to see eye to eye.

However, now that the lesser known cricketing States have shown an interest to improve with the help of the affluent Board of Control, one

hopes their standards will be better in the near future. The lesser known members have as much right on the Board as the others. Happily, the Board has itself been operating on this principle for some time now.

#### Punjab perfect with the stick

**P**UNJAB teams monopolised the later stages of the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hockey Tournament, which this year was played at the Delhi Public School ground because Delhi's hockey headquarters, Shivaji Stadium, has been reserved for the Asian Games women's hockey tournament. After a briskly fought goalless final, JCT Mills, Phagwara, and the impressively named Indian Maharajas from Jullundur were declared joint winners. This announcement was not received kindly by the spectators who had earlier been told that the tie breaker rule would be resorted to in the event of a stalemate.

The way the JCT Mills hockey team has come up, it now commands the same respect as its more famous soccer outfit. In the semi-finals earlier, the young JCT side had eliminated the redoubtable Border Security Force in the tie breaker (8-5) after the teams had failed to score in the normal playing time. Goalkeeper Rakesh made three very good saves. The newly formed Maharajas

Action from the final of the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial hockey tournament



brought to an end the run of successes of Rock Rovers, Chandigarh, scoring a goal in each half. BSF themselves had advanced to the semi-finals with a tie-breaker win (7-4) over Northern Railway. Rock Rovers shocked Punjab Police in the quarter-finals, outside-left Brij Pandit getting the only goal of the match 17 minutes into the second half.

Mata Sundri College were tops among the women. They rallied splendidly in the second half of the final against Janki Devi Mahavidyalaya. Trailing by a goal at half time, they came back to score twice after the interval to win the tournament, centre-forward Ranjit scoring the match-winner barely two minutes before the final whistle.

A CORRESPONDENT

## CALCUTTA

### Harrowing experience

THE most prestigious event of the Calcutta monsoon racing season is the Monsoon Cup. The event was scheduled for Wednesday September 1 but had to be postponed because the employees of the RCTC decided to go on a lightning strike. These strikes are detrimental to the sport and it has become a habit with the employees to press their demands on the eve of a big race. They know very well that this is the best opportunity to hold the Royal Calcutta Turf Club to 'ransom' and should be severely penalised. Nevertheless, the Monsoon Cup was finally held a week later and the race which was open to horses in Classes II and III attracted five runners.

Aureus which had only a few weeks earlier won the Bengal Area Cup was carrying the top weight and was one of the principal contenders. Punters did not have an easy job choosing the winner as Mintoo, Major General, Harrow with Robin Corner astride and Thrifty Allan carrying a feather weight on its back all had a good chance of winning.

Thrifty Allan ridden by the young Rodney Rodrigues was the first out of the stalls in the 2000 metre race. The five-year old gelding led the field, a clear three lengths from Harrow. Coming around the bend Harrow could not sustain and Thrifty Allan past the post followed by Aureus with Harrow coming in third.

It was a great achievement for the ageing Harrow. One must bear in mind that ace jockey Robin Corner had steered Thrifty Allan to victory in the Independence Cup, but, instead chose to ride Harrow for the Monsoon Cup. Obviously, the jockey had pinned tremendous hope on the older horse. In fact, Harrow had been working well earning him the

comments "very fit", "in good condition" and "in fine trim".

The Monsoon Cup over, Corner rode his mount into the unsaddling enclosure. It was the last time Harrow had been unsaddled. His heart stopped. Cardiac failure, they say. It collapsed. Tears on faces. And then Beep Beep. "And now for the sixth race of the afternoon."

DEREK O'BRIEN

## Second school for table tennis

THE table tennis wave that swept through the city during the 33rd World Championship has left its remnants. Thanks to the Bengal Table Tennis Association, which is keenly pursuing its venture in fostering the game throughout the State. The move has paid rich dividends and this is evident by the abundance of talent from the districts.

The BTTA had streamlined the training programme. First, it established a training school at the Rabin Dr. Sarobar in South Calcutta way back in 1976. This school was, in fact, the first of its kind in the country and later some other associations also followed suit. The school which gives intensive coaching has attracted many juniors and among them some talented players have been identified. But the BTTA's enlightened programme could not be propagated due to the lack of space and other essential facilities which were just not there. This was cause enough for concern. Then again, the inaccessibility of enthusiasts from the north and central parts of the city to the school in the south dampened its prospects. The BTTA had to get rid of this bottleneck as quickly as possible.

Recently, the association was fortunate to find a place to set up its second training school in the heart of the city. This centre, however, is exclusively meant for students of the game between the age of 10 and 16 and is jointly-sponsored by the BTTA and the Calcutta University Institute, which is famous for its services rendered to the student community in both sport and culture for over ninety years. The space provided accommodates three tables for practice. The trainees under competent coaches are being put through a syllabus of systematic training. The interested juniors are taking full advantage of this centrally-located venue.

The students joining the two-year course at the centre will have to pay a negligible amount as a 'token' for the coaches. During the training period the coaches will scout the potentials for further grooming at the Khudiram Anusilani Kendra

## Playing for a cause

THE football fraternity has been very sympathetic towards Sonali Shibir, a junior team which recently met with a tragic incident in which ebullient striker Achintya Pal and his coach lost their lives and injuring almost all the players. Charity matches in and outside Calcutta were played to meet medical and other necessities of the crippled Shibir boys.

Recently, the State Bank of India Office Managers Department (Jeevan Deep) organised an inter-branch football competition. Prior to the finals between Tata Centre and IOA section main branch a friendly match took place in which many players of yesteryears were seen in action. There was Sanat Sett, Sunil Bhattacharjee, Santa Mitra, Bidyut Mazumdar and a few others who volunteered to display some of their techniques.

The final was well contested but the score-sheet was blank. The chief guest was veteran Sailen Manna, while general manager (operation) Bharat Bhattacharjee was the president. In the midst of over a thousand football enthusiasts there were several high officials of the SBI. The organisers pooled in donations in five boxes from the crowd which will be handed over to Sonali Shibir Club. There were three prizes for the winners, runners-up and the best player. The first award was given by Mrs Olga Rodrigues, who is known for her contribution to women's basketball and hockey.

SUBHASH SARKAR

## BANGALORE

### Dicey game

A WAR of gigantic proportions and consequences was fought all because of this game. No racking of the brains is needed to guess the war and the game—Mahabharata and the game of dice which led to the downfall of the Kauravas. Well, this game which is generally associated with gambling has been introduced as a sport of intelligence for the first time in Karnataka.

Priyadarshini Chitrakala Vinda, a cultural and sports association, has plans of conducting a dice tournament in the first week of October. The three types of events in dice—single or odd, double or even and game of nine carry awards for winners and runner-up. The entry fee is Rs 2 for an event and both sexes can take part in the events.

## Madras champions

IN the Inter-University Chess Championships which were held at

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Mangalore, Madras University emerged the winners with a convincing victory over Bombay, whom they beat by three matches to one, to finish with 18 1/2 points. National player Yusuf Hassan, played a major role in Bihar securing the second place with 17 1/2 points. They drew with last year's holders Nagpur in the last round.

## Pilling par excellence

It was Philip Pilling's tournament all the way through. He played like a true champion and finished with a four round total of 294, four strokes ahead of Rathi Singh of New Delhi. Braund D Souza finished third with a total of 301.

A record attendance by golf enthusiasts were treated to some exciting golf by the top names in the game. Pilling played like a well-oiled machine and finished the first half on a under par and played the return journey on par. An eagle on the 17th saw him three shots ahead on the 18th hole, but he ran into rough weather when on the 18th hole, his second shot landed on the sand trap and he dropped two more strokes on this hole to finish one under par for the round. The prizes were distributed by the popular captain Mr S R Ramchandran.

## [MADRAS]

### Mini Sholavaram

THE All India Motor Race Meet at Sholavaram conducted every March has earned a name for itself as the premier motor racing meet in the country. But the Madras Motor Sports Club who conduct this annual event, wanted to give motorists and two wheel riders another chance to test their machines. Hence the idea of the mid term race was born and the MMSC organised it on September 5. The "phoren" connection was missing, but there were some notable outstation entries from Coimbatore, Bangalore and Pune. Sponsored by M R 1, the meet was a success insofar as it provided an opportunity for young and untutored drivers to test their skill and that of their machines. But a very exciting showpiece if predictably, did not get off the ground. In fact, not unexpectedly, there were more spills than thrills. Kamlesh Patel of MMSC claimed the India Radiators Trophy for the Formula Indian cars while A L Jayakumar blazed to victory in the motor cycles event for the Charmian Challenge Trophy.

### Incentive

BETTER fare was, however, provided in the Nurtine Super Star All India Table Tennis Tournament



Chandrakant Pandit receiving the Buchi Babu trophy which his team Matatal won

for juniors, conducted by the Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Players' Welfare Association on September 4 and 5. There have been prize money tournaments for seniors, but this was the first time in the country that prize money tournament was held for juniors. It was a laudable scheme and the TITPWA deserves every praise for their brainwave. With all the top junior stars in the country responding to the invitations, table tennis of a good standard was seen and the competitiveness was keen. Obviously the total prize money—nearly Rs 5000—provided the incentive. Arunvijay Barua, studying in Delhi but representing Assam kept his reputation as the country's top ranking junior player when he won the title and the Rs 1000 first prize with an emphatic straight games victory over Vasant Bharadwaj of Karnataka.

### Buchi Babu tourney proves a point

RATHER than Matatal Sports Club's victory in the Buchi Babu cricket tournament final, the talking point of the week has been how INCA President's XI—a virtual state side—lost the match to them. Few events have caused more consternation in cricket circles than the fact that Tamil Nadu cricket has come to such a sorry pass that the home team batsman—including among them are Test and Zonal players—could not muster up a total of 231, against bowling that was not more than club class, despite the fact that Uday Joshi and Yograj Singh were among the bowlers.

Matatal have won the trophy every time they have participated here. Initially in fact, the matches they were involved in were so hopelessly one-sided in their favour

that the Bombay outfit did not even want to come here to participate in this prestigious tournament. Then a few years back the INCA started fielding a team which was virtually representative of the state side. Still, Matatal could not be subdued, not surprisingly, once those playing for the club included Brijesh Patel, Lknath Solkar, Ashok Mankad, Parthasarathy Sharma and Dhruaj Paisana. However, at least the matches were not as hip-sided as before.

This year Matatal here, because of various reasons were without Patel, Solkar, Sharma and Paisana. Only Mankad remained and the side was reinforced by the inclusion of Ghulam Parkar. Still the INCA President's XI seemed strong enough to delt at them and it was quite justifiable that city cricket fans thought that INCA would win the trophy. More so when medium pacer T A Sekhar and Venkataraghavan, bowled really well on a plumb hitting track to restrict Matatal to 230.

We were to be badly disillusioned. One by one, the cream of state batting committed hara-kiri against bowling which was good, but then so was the pitch. And however good the bowling was there is no way that a side starting with Srikanth and V Sivatmakrishnan and continuing with T L Sumisasan, M O Parthasarathy, A Jabbar, Bharat Reddy, I Sivatmakrishnan and Venkataraghavan should be dismissed for 169. Yet this is precisely what happened. Once the lead was conceded there was little that the home team could do to come back against a Bombay side with a professional outlook. The outcome of the Buchi Babu final does not augur well for Tamil Nadu cricket and there is already talk of thorough overhauling of the state side.

PHATAPATHI MANI

## The problems of being Bedser

The twin Bedser brothers—Alec and Eric—bore striking resemblances. They looked so much alike that even their parents often had to try hard to know immediately "who is who?" They had the better of all fellow cricketers, spectators, officials and also umpires.

There are many amusing stories about the twin but the following one is worth re-narrating.

The brothers were playing for a club in an exhibition match. Eric, known to be the better batsman of the two, played like a champion in this match and stayed long enough at the wicket.

As his wonderful innings ended, brother Alec came in his place. Alec was preparing to take his guard when the bewildered umpire took a hard look at him and then signalled him to the pavilion.

Alec, however, remained motionless and concerned about all this. He took his stance even without taking a guard from the umpire, and was ready to face the bowling. The umpire's anxiety grew further thinking that he was being harassed by the dismissal batsman. He walked up to Alec and said:

"There is no second chance in this match. Alec was naturally both surprised and amused and said: "What are you talking about?"

"Do not for heaven's sake, be over smart. You went out last ball and how the hell can you come to bat again?"

asked the enraged umpire. "You are wrong," quietly replied Alec, saying that the previous batsman was his brother. This did not satisfy the umpire. Eric had to be summoned to the ground between the man in white long coat allowed the game to resume.

leagues started laughing. Compton went on showering praise for nearly five minutes before one of them rose and whispered into Compton's ear. "You are caught on the sticky wicket. This is not Alec; you are congratulating but his brother, Eric. Compton flushed and

good stroke and ran more than half way down without looking at the fielder. Pat, a brilliant fielder, picked up the ball and banged it towards wicket-keeper Snodgrass, an apple, instead of the ball. "Steady himself," excited misook the apple for the ball. He grabbed it and

wickets are down. Can the umpire decide the interval?"

A: Yes, the rule is absolutely clear. It says: "If at the agreed time for the tea interval nine wickets are down, play shall continue for a period not exceeding 30 minutes, or until the innings is concluded."

Q: Five minutes remain for the drink interval when a wicket falls. Can the umpire call for drinks immediately?

A: Yes, the umpires can do so. It is done with a view to saving time.

Q: An innings ends, but play is stopped within 30 minutes of the drink interval. Will the drink interval take place on schedule?

A: There will be no drink interval in that session.

Q: What procedure the umpire should adopt when he notices that the fielding side is wasting time?

A: All kinds of time wasting are outlawed.

(a) In the event of the captain of the fielding side wasting time or allowing any member of his side to waste time, the umpire, at the bowler's end, shall adopt the following procedure:

(a) Caution the captain of the fielding side and also the other umpire. (b) Repeat the caution as the final warning. (c) Captain of the batting side should be commended about the occurrence during the interval and (d) inform the governing body about the incident so that it may take appropriate steps.



Both of them stood 6ft 2 in and weighed just over 14 stones during their playing days. They were "terribly difficult to tell apart."

Alec bowled exceedingly well for Surrey against MCC in 1946. Denis Compton dashed into the Surrey dressing room to congratulate him. That was indeed excellent bowling, Alec. Compton told him and the two Surrey men wore a loggion on his face. The col-

dashed out of the dressing room.

Here is another amusing story. This is not of the Bedser brothers but of Pasty Hendren who was as popular, if not more, as Alec.

Once a young boy named Myers ran into splendid form and was in his nine teens in a match against the MCC. He became nervous as a colt and began doing impossible things to get nearer the coveted hundred. Myers made a

whipped off the ball while the youngster was still much outside the crease. There was a roar all over. The umpire hesitated before realising that it was an apple and not the ball. While the umpire admired Pat's smartness, the boy heaved a sigh of relief and went on to achieve his life's ambition of scoring a century against the MCC team.

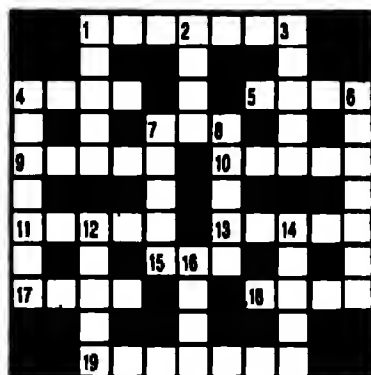
Here are some problems.

Q: Tea time is reached when nine



IMUDAR

165



ACROSS

- 1 One of the top all-rounders today and also a Kiwi (1, 6)
- 4 What the West Indians are also specialists in (4)
- 5 This Park, a cricketing venue in New Zealand, has something in common with Calcutta's Test centre (4)
- 7 The shape in which Larwood placed his leg side fielders when bowling 'Bodyline' (3)
- 9 A former fiancée of Jimmy Connors, now married to a British tennis star (5)
- 10 Cricket bowler who worked with Hogg in tandem against England in 1978-79 (5)
- 11 Players change sides at the— a game in badminton (3, 2)
- 13 English cricket writer who has cobblers implement in the middle (5)
- 15 A Loxton and a Maneckshaw have this in common, returns (3)
- 17 Much between running between wickets depends on a— (4)
- 18 Former West Indian cricketer of the Fifties has a circle in the middle (4)
- 19 Sir Garfield holds the record for the highest number of runs in an innings— (2, 5)

DOWN

- 1 Australian tennis star Tony, who also figured in the Wimbledon semis some time back (5)
- 2 Versatile court games player who was at one time the squash champion and also the tennis champion (4)
- 3 Not a beginner for a woman champion swimmer (5)
- 4 Footballer Puskas with his surname first and first name second (1, 6)
- 6 Directional trophy in English cricket (3, 4)
- 7 Pakistani hockey official who has an alternative in the middle (4, 1)
- 8 A table tennis shot and a meat preparation in plural have the same name (5)

- 12 Venue of the very first Asian Games (5)
- 14 Former Somerset cricketer and a contemporary of W G Grace (5)
- 16 Masculine ending for a black American tennis player (4)

Excellent : 22-20, Good 19-17,

Fair 16-14

## Question box

Shahbenda Shakhar Prasad, Imphal

Q What is the world record for the highest number of catches and who is the holder?

A The record is 120 catches in 114 Tests by M C Cowdrey of England

Sanaal Dixit, Jaipur

Q When did M A K Pataudi make his Test debut and what were his scores in that match?

A In the third Test of England at Delhi in 1961-62, M A K Pataudi made his Test debut and he scored 13 runs

Sushanta Chakraborty, Digboi

Q Please give me the bowling figures of Rajinder Singh Goel and P K Shivalkar in the Ranji Trophy

A Rajinder Goel in 105 Ranji matches has captured a record number of 526 wickets in 25,553 balls 1,394 maiden overs at an expense of 9,135 runs On 44 occasions he got five or more wickets in an innings and 14 times 10 or more in a match P K Shivalkar of Bombay in 72 Ranji matches has bowled 20,631 balls 1,253 maiden overs, conceded 6,278 runs and captured 359 wickets with five or more wickets in an innings on 26 occasions and 10 or more in a match on nine occasions

M Narasimlah, Madras

Q What is meant by 'out, Mankaded'? What is the procedure of getting a batsman out Mankaded?

A When the non-striking batsman at the bowler's end is found out of his crease, while backing up before the ball is delivered by the bowler, the non-striking batsman is legitimately run out by the bowler, before delivering the ball Mankad had run out a batsman in this fashion for the first time and hence it is said run out Mankaded

## SOLUTION 164

S V R O N S M

O R I O O R  
C T O N N U R L

H R E F S Y D W  
O O L L I S

M I N J C B I

Pritpal Singh Bhalla, Jamshedpur.

Q What were the scores by Sunil Gavaskar in Tests against England in 1971?

A He scored four and 53 at Lord's, 57 and 24 at Manchester and six and zero at The Oval

Ghulam Jilani, residence not mentioned

Q Who is the cricketer who played for England and India in Tests?

A Iftikhar Ali Khan Pataudi

Q Where did India play her first Test in England and where did England play her first Test in India?

A India played her first Test at Lord's in London and England played her first Test in India at Bombay

Davinder Paul Singh, Kham Karan (Amritsar), Dr B D Hyali, Nasik

Q For how much time did Sunil Gavaskar bat for his 172 at Bangalore in 1981-82?

A Gavaskar took 708 minutes for his 172 at Bangalore against England in 1981-82

Q Name the manager of the Indian cricket team to England in 1959?

A Fateh Singh Gaekwad, popularly known as the Maharaja of Baroda

Sabbasish Bhattacharjee, Raiganj; Kalyan Baruah Bai, Hoogrijan, Kalaam Khan, Paharpur

Q What are the complete Test records of M A K Pataudi and Aji Wadekar?

A M A K Pataudi played in 48 Tests, 83 innings, was not out in three innings and made 2,793 runs at the average of 35.91 with six centuries, 16 fifties and seven zeroes, 203 not out being his highest score He was captain in 40 Tests Aji Wadekar's record is 37 Tests, 71 innings, thrice not out, 2,113 runs, 143 being his highest score, 31.07 his average, one century, 14 fifties and seven ducks He led India in 16 Tests

## Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

### QUESTIONS

Unscramble the jumbles and find out names of famous sports or games

- 1 LAELBNT
- 2 SNIGRUF
- 3 CYRRAEH
- 4 NOTILBHA
- 5 ILSRBDAIL
- 6 GWNSLSTEIR
- 7 GINIKS
- 8 MTYCASSING
- 9 REAATK
- 10 NALDHALB

### ANSWERS

- 10 HANDBALL
- 9 KARATE
- 8 GYMNASTICS
- 7 SKIING
- 6 WRESTLING
- 5 BILLIARDS
- 4 BATHLON
- 3 ARCHERY
- 2 SURFING
- 1 NETBALL

**A. Mervyn Harvey** played just one Test for Australia against England at Adelaide in 1946-47. He made 12 and 31.

**A** Sunil Gavaskar has the highest number of runs to his credit. His aggregate in first-class cricket, before embarking on the tour of England in May 1982 was 19,429 runs in 252 first-class fixtures.

**Q When and where was the first Test between India and Pakistan played?**

**A. Pakistan and India first played each other at Delhi on October 16, 17 and 18, 1952, when India won by an innings and 70 runs**

A Twenty-six by New Zealand 30 by South Africa (twice) 36 by Australia, 42 by India, 45 by England, 62 by Pakistan, 76 by West Indies and 158 by Sri Lanka are the lowest totals of the respective countries in Tests.

**Q** Who has scored the maximum number of runs in first-class cricket matches?

**A Ten and 39 at Bombay, 68 and 103 not out at Kanpur and 87 and 17 at Madras**

**A First Test against England at Manchester in 1974 when he made 2 and 7 and captured 2 for 56 and none for 39.**

## Schau

♠ 64  
♥ A 7 5  
♦ 8 3 2  
♣ A 10 7 6 4

♠ K Q 9 8 5  
♥ 8  
♦ K Q 7 6 4  
♣ 5 3

♠ N  
♥ W  
♦ E  
♣ S

♠ A J 7 3 2  
♥ K 4 3  
♦ 10 9 5  
♣ 9 8

♠ 10  
♥ G J 10 9 6 2  
♦ A J  
♣ K Q J 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1 ♣	pass	3 ♣
4 ♠	1 ♣	5 ♣	pass
pass	pass		

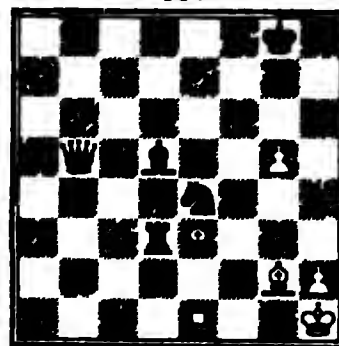
Well, who was to blame in spite of the lack of agreement on signalling methods? East or West? Of course, West could have switched to  $\diamond K$  at trick 2, but he was convinced that there was

**This week's quiz.** As South at love all you hold ♠ Q 7, ♥ A Q 8 7 4, ♦ J 8 3, ♣ 8 4 2 West deals and opens one-diamond! North overcalls with one-spade and East bids two-clubs. What action, if any, do you take?

For some time I have been thinking about a short series featuring the greatest players from the USA, and there could hardly be a better moment to start it than now. In chess terms the independence of the United States was proclaimed by Paul Morphy's triumphal visit to Europe in 1858, during which he proved himself without any doubt to be the best player in the world. If the European masters had been unimpressed by his victory in the First American Chess Congress in New York the previous year, they were convinced when Morphy won his match with Adolf Anderssen in Paris by 7-2 with 2 draws. Anderssen had emerged the victor in London in 1851 and was recognised as a brilliant tactician, but he was apparently helpless against the young American star. Morphy was a genius at chess, and his understanding of the game put him further ahead of his

**Competition 8537 Solution next week**

**Black**



## Write

(E44R1A/B/C44K3C/E, 2/20K - mate in two) 1  
Q-K2 (zugzwang) (a) 1 K-R7, 2 Q-R8  
(b) 1 B-R7 2 KxP, (c) 1 P-B8-Q  
2 K3-K3, (d) 1 P-B8-K3, 2 Q-K2



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Wiltech India Ltd.

Review of  
Trial Games



Report on the India-Sri Lanka Test

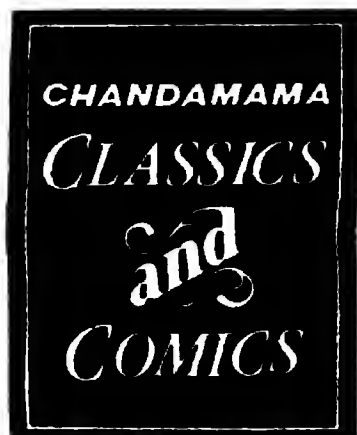
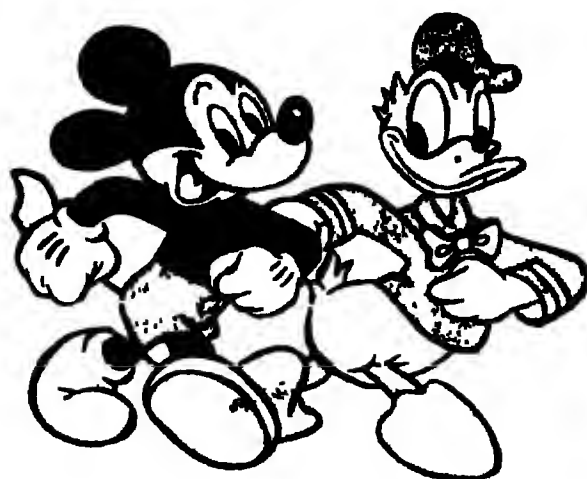
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Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sarkar  
Correspondents: Bombay: Harish Munshi, Madras: Ashok Kamath  
Staff Photographer: Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Art Director: Bipul Gulia  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Borg forgotten

THIS refers to the article 'Tennis rivalry of the Eighties' published in the *Sportsworld* of 11 August 1982. In the article only two names, that of McIlmoe and Ivan Lendl, were mentioned as the persons to be watched in future years. It is surprising to note that the writer omitted the name of Borg in spite of his historical wins and records. His quitting the Wimbledon tournament this year should not mean that he is no longer a player that he once was. One cannot understand how Mr Jacoli forgot that he is the only player to have won Wimbledon five times. If I am not mistaken then he has also triumphed in the French Open on more occasions than any other player.

It seems that when a person is passing through a bad phase everyone goes against him. Borg has not been excepted. But I am very sure that he will come back with great success for which he is renowned.  
SANJEY MEHTA  
Calcutta

### P. K. should retire

AFTER India's recent performance in the Merdeka tournament I feel that the national coach Mr P. K. Banerjee is not fit to be in the position he now is. His prediction went haywire and though he had said that India's aim should be to get the gold or at least reach the semi-final at the Merdeka, we finished way down. I feel that he should consequently retire from the post he is now holding.  
BIKASH CHANDRA DAS,  
Calcutta

### Incorrect

THE questions asked by A. B. Barnabas, Kalyana Gopin and Mohan Lal Mukherjee have, I feel, been incorrectly answered

in your 4 August issue. One of the questions asked is whether a substitute can keep wickets in a game and the answer given is that he cannot. But Law 22 states that he can though only with the permission of the opposing captain. Another question asked was whether the pitch could be changed during the game and the answer was that it could not. But Law 73 clarifies that it can at the instance of both the captains. In the last question it is queried whether a batsman can be declared out if the ball were to strike the batsman's pads first then the bat, resulting in a catch to a fielder. The answer was in the negative but let me quote Law 32.1. The striker shall be out caught if the ball touches his bat or if it touches below the wrist his hand or glove holding the bat and is subsequently held by a fielder before it touches the ground.

M. R. SINGH  
Bombay

IN your weekly dated 1 September it has been answered that only Gavaskar, Vishwanath, Umrigar, Hazare, Manpreet Singh, Sakshi, Borde, Rav, Mani and Sardesai scored five or more centuries in Tests for India. It is strange to note that Paragdi's name is missing from the list.

T. D. MUKHERJEE  
Vijayanagar

### Excellent

CONGRATULATIONS! Your 8 September issue of *Sportsworld* had an excellent cover page. It was very eye-catching, imaginative and the best of its kind.

Let me also take this opportunity to say that the printing of sports magazines in our country is of a below average standard and the get up of most of them is quite too impressive. But *Sportsworld* has done it again. Now that

you yourself have raised the standard of the magazine I hope that you keep it up I expect to see better cover pages and blow-ups in the future I shall not be surprised to find other sports magazines copying this idea of yours  
**K W SOVANI,**  
 Bombay

## Record yet unnoticed

**E**VEN after many weeks, a record which Kapil Dev set in the Lord's Test of the recent Indo-English series is yet to be mentioned by our statisticians. If my memory is not bad then Kapil Dev scored 1000 runs and took 100 wickets in the same Test i.e. the sixth game between Pakistan and India at Calcutta in the 1979-80 series. Now in the Lord's Test he completed his 1500 Test runs and took his 150th wicket. He has, thus, proved that his mastery over the bat and the ball is equal. Can the qualified record keepers name any other cricketer who has to himself the above



(Reader Mrs Shohini Ghosh sends us a cartoon depicting the rush for the Asiad tickets. Is it not a miracle that some managed a ticket after all?)

mentioned record?  
**NAME NOT MENTIONED**  
 Jullundur

## Not Qadir

**T**HE blow-up that you published in your issue dated 8 September was not of a Abdul Qadir. Actually the person shown in the blow up was Majid Khan.  
**UTTAM SINGHA,**  
 Bongaigaon  
 (I am sorry but you are mistaken. Though I do acknowledge the similarity between the two players—the black and white photograph of Qadir in that issue seems to indicate this—I must assert that the photograph published was of Qadir and not of Majid Khan. EDITOR)

## Final say

**I**HAVE just heard that the magician P. C. Sorcar is going to perform at the Asian Games. Will it be to make Appu disappear from the scene and save it from losing face?  
**R. SANKARAN,**  
 Madras

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# ASIAD VENUES

**B**ARELY a year and a half ago the land behind Delhi's Central Revenues office buildings, popularly known as "ITO", was nothing but sheer wilderness, which every monsoon, would inevitably turn into a mosquito-infested swamp. Now, it is one of the most imposing construction sites. Close to this historic and hallowed ground the river Yamuna whispers quietly by on its eternal journey.

One finds no reason to dispute the claim of the builders that, when complete, the 25,000 capacity Indraprastha Indoor Stadium, to give it its proper name, will rank as one of the world's largest indoor sports arena.

Over six centuries ago, the Sultan Ferozeshah Tughlaq, founder of the Fifth Delhi—Ferozabad—spend his leisure hours here watching elephants hurl themselves at each other. The massive brown walls of the Sultan's Kotla still overlook the area where, in a few months from now, the air will be rent by, cheers of an altogether different kind as the cream of Asia's gymnasts, volleyball and badminton players battle it out for the medals.

Of unique design, the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium has a diameter of 150 metres and has been conceived as a bowl-like structure. Commenting on the gigantic dome of the stadium, Prof Z S Makows-

## A sight to remember

ki, a renowned expert at the British University of Surrey, said, it was the world's third largest dome—"A triumph of Indian engineers." Coming from an engineer of his stature, this is no mean tribute. And yet, not long ago the site for the indoor stadium was being scoffed at because of the loose riverside soil.

The stadium is destined to become one of the country's premier palaces of sport. Its arena of 78 x 60 meters puts it in the world standard. Its roof is supported by eight pylons with structural steel space-frame with corrugated aluminium sheets rising to a height of 44 metres.

The indoor stadium, with its sound-proof foldable partition, can be manipulated in just seven minutes to divide itself into stadia. The stadium will be accessible by split level promenades along both main axes besides a number of auxiliary openings. Lighting will be installed to enable live colour television broadcasts.

The administrative block of the stadium is a two-storeyed structure. The block has an impressive courtyard, with a fibreglass canopy that filters in natural light. The circular conference room is another rare facility. It

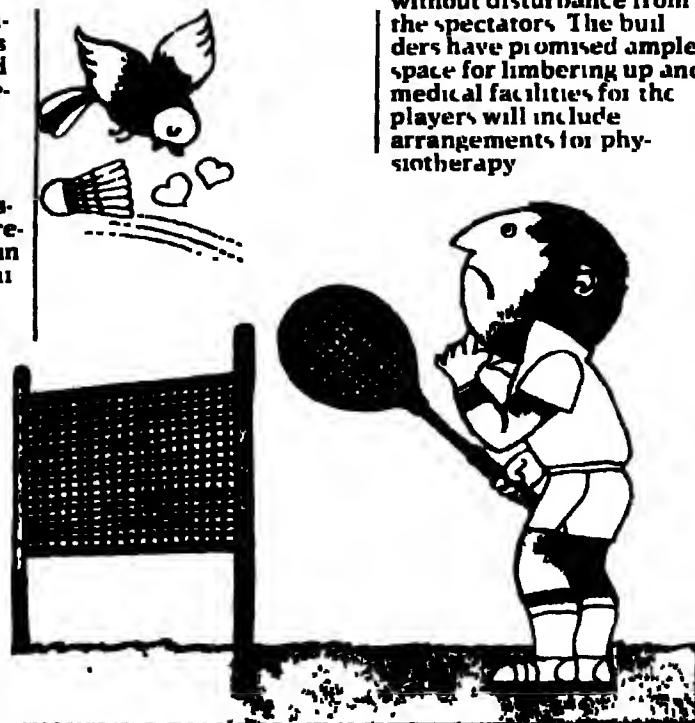
accommodates 300 persons—coaches, judges and Pressmen—at a time. The offices are located on the first floor with special sections for VIPs, posts and telegraphs, banks and a lounge, cafe and photographic section complete with dark rooms.

Sprawling over a 110-acre area the builders, the Delhi Development Authority, estimate that 20,000 tonnes of cement, 5,000 tonnes of steel reinforcement bars and 2,000 tonnes of structural steel will have been used by the time they are through with the project. Each support of the stadium roof is equivalent to a 15-storey building in a reinforced cement construction. No wonder, the structure, is being visualised as piece de resistance.

Though nobody is willing to disclose the original cost estimates, the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium

when complete, will cost a staggering Rs 25 crores. But viewed as an investment in the youth of the country this is not such a massive figure. However, the DDA already has plans to recover a part of the costs and see to it that the place generates sufficient revenue to meet maintenance costs. Hoteliers will be interested in bidding for the place after the games are over. One learns there are quite a few who are eager to acquire the real estate, which will gain a unique appearance with the laying of an artificial lake. However, all this comes only later.

The indoor stadium complex has provision for a coaching block which will provide six practice halls with attached toilets, a restaurant and medical facilities, not to speak of sauna baths. A V shaped players building stands directly opposite the main stadium. Players, have access to the arena by the shortest possible route without disturbance from the spectators. The builders have promised ample space for limbering up and medical facilities for the players will include arrangements for physiotherapy.



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# ALL IN THE GAME

## KNOTTY PROBLEM

*Refusing to bow down*

**S**NOOKER enthusiasts of the country are well aware of the fact that the Indian challenge at the world amateur championships rested on the broad shoulders of snit spoken Syed Habib and the balding Girish Parekh. Habib was involved in a unique incident at the championships played at Calgary, Alberta.

The Indian came to the green top to play his match against Peter Kippie of Edinburgh. Kippie came out but refused to wear a bow tie and as a result was disqualified for breach of dress code. He officially lost his fourth round robin match to Habib by 4 frames to 0.

The International Billiards and Snooker Federation requires all players to wear a bow tie during world championships. Kippie arrived for two previous matches with a bow tie.

## MASTER BLUNDER

*Mountains and the mole hill*

**F**OOTBALL has finally gone mad. Why? You ask! An eleven-year old child refereed an adult third-division soccer match a few weeks ago in Castello, Spain.

The youngster who was the centre of attraction was Salvador Castello Moles. The precocious little Spaniard said before the game, "Players do not understand the rules. They should learn them."

One feels that he has been given a responsibility that demands too much

of his eleven years. Apparently he proved his knowledge by finishing second in a class of adults sitting for their referees examination.

A referee, it has been pointed out, has to be capable of running seven miles or more during the 90 minutes, making split second decisions on incidents the electronic age will dissect in public afterwards. Above all, he must be a man with the maturity and the experience to cope with others who, while pushing their solid frames to breaking point, increasingly react to the whistle with the childish instability of kids in kindergarten. How can Master Moles, aged 11, be such a man?

## STRANGE LUCK

*Dangerous sporting*

**T**ALK of Derek Pringle's back injury, from stretching after writing a letter, and of Tony Greig hurting his ankle playing bridge. Conclusion: A man is only safe in his own bed. Hold it! One does not know if you remember the Aussie wicket keeper Gil Langley. Rings a bell? Well, Langley missed the Manchester Test in 1956 ("Laker match") because on the previous night he slept on his hand and damaged it.

Why, it does not only happen in the game played by "flannelled fouls"—fencing is no exception. Richard Oldcorn, a British sabre fencer on his way to the 1977 world championships in Buenos Aires met with a similar misfortune. At the airport he sneezed—and a back which supported a 6 ft 4 inch frame couldn't take it. He was horizontal for all of the long journey and never took part. The moral of the story, probably is that sport isn't half so dangerous as life itself.

## THE DALEY EXPRESS

*Their man has*

**W**HETHER one considers great victories in world records as the more important, it is none the less the man who has both during the recently concluded European Championship in Athens, Daley Thompson, is still not at ease with both in his kitty. Somehow he never does get along with the media, as he says, "They all want to talk to me now that their man (Sebastian Coe) has screwed it up."

At his official Press conference after his great decathlon achievement Thompson was asked to go through each of the 10 events to which he replied, "There's no point in all one."

The decathlete's mood was a little different a few hours later as he relaxed in his hotel room. Talking of the last event the 1500 metres which helped him to get past the world mark. "I tell you. I thought I wasn't going to get round that last lap. I kept trying to think of things that make me angry and keep me going. When I looked at the clock I couldn't even read it. I was so dizzy." Everyone else could and the familiar jersey with the number 350 made everyone happy, as happy they'd ever been.

## HAM AND EGGS

*Involvement and commitment*

**M**ARTINA Navratilova, whose Grand Slam bid was brought to naught by doubles partner Pam

Shriver in Flushing Meadow at the U.S. Open, says she is not just involved in tennis, she is committed to it. "Do you know the difference between involvement and commitment?" asks Navratilova. Think of hams and eggs. The chicken is involved. The pig is committed.

## LEAD UNKINDLY LIGHT

*Hooligans and magistrates*

**R**AMPAGING Leeds United supporters in a span of just one week received fines totalling more than £8,000 in two special sessions at the local courts. But the attempt to hand out harsh punishments to hooligans by magistrates intent on seeing "that this sort of thing doesn't happen again" missed the real culprits, it seems always get away while many of those who didn't suffer from some rough injustice.

A 20 year old factory worker said to take home 70 quid a week was ordered to pay £500 for confronting supporters of the opponent team with his "fist clenched and his face contorted." A 17 year old who earns £22 a week, was fined £200 for running on to the pitch before the match and kicking a football into the net.

Local traders told police that about £15,000 worth of damage was done on the nights after the two matches were played. During the match—needless to say—a stand was damaged and refreshment bar was ransacked. There are serious doubts whether the real culprits were the ones rounded up. Who cares? A sure case of catch as catch can.

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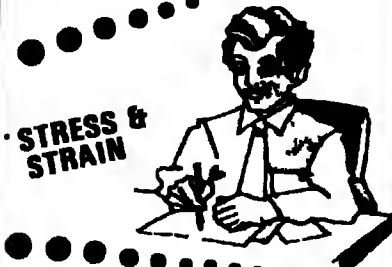
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# The first 105 must rank as the best

PARTAB RAMCHAND profiles and interviews Duleep Mendis

**B**ELIEVERS in the zodiac signs tell me that one of the characteristics of a Virgo is a person tidy in his methods. I don't normally believe in these things but even disbelievers may concede some significance in Rohan Louis Duleep Mendis' being a Virgo. Besides being immaculate in his methods, he is supposedly pure minded, too. And these two qualities are also characteristic of Mendis' batting.

He is 30 now, born on 25 August, 1952 at Moratuwa and like all lads with immense gifts, he made his mark early, first bursting into prominence playing for the Sri Lanka Under 19 against the Australia Under 19 in 1971-72 after having toured India with the Sri Lanka Schools team two years before. But the innings that marked him out as an uncommonly fine prospect was against Clive Lloyd's all conquering West Indian side in 1974-75. In the limited-over game at Colombo, he took the much vaunted Caribbean pace attack apart for a sizzling 75 in 92 minutes with a six and nine fours. It was this knock that set him apart from his colleagues and from that moment he was put alongside Tennekoon as one of the country's leading batsmen.

Mendis it was who carried the fight into the enemy's camp in Sri Lanka's epic battle with Australia in the 1975 World Cup. Australia had led off with 328 in the allotted 60 overs, but Sri Lanka were undaunted. Every batsman stood up to the thunderbolts being hurled at them from both ends. Wettimuny and Mendis had to retire hurt. Mendis had made 32 runs before his tenure was cut short by a Lillee delivery that struck him on the face. It was this innings that brought to the fore an added quality—courage—to the other charming and graceful facets of his play.

He is also the only Sri Lankan batsman to score over 1000 runs in limited over games—a creditable feat. He was the first from that country to score a century in England when he belted the East African bowlers for a quick 144 at Taunton in 1975. Before he came to India he had played in 65 first-class matches and 112 innings—more matches and more innings than anyone else. Statisticians point out that during the current tour of India, he eclipsed Tennekoon's figures and has taken over statistically as the finest Sri Lankan batsman of all time. Can

there be any doubt that even aesthetically he is the best among the island's batsmen?

But if cricket fans in other cities have not had the good fortune to see Mendis at his best, those at Madras can count themselves doubly fortunate. They saw two positively great knocks from his punitive, classic bat. The 105 he scored in last month's Test match was one. But equally memorable was his 194 against Tamil Nadu in the Gopalan Trophy tie at Madras in 1977. In the latter innings he had come in when two wickets had fallen quickly but did not bother trying out his defensive technique and straightaway sailed into the attack. When it was all over, the bowling lay in shambles around him. The depressing fact was that there were just a few hundred spectators present at Chepauk that day!

**A** TEA executive with the famous Maharaja Organisation in Colombo, Mendis is married and has a two-year-old son. He spoke to PARTAB RAMCHAND in Madras.

**SPORTSWORLD:** How would you rank the 105 you scored in the Test?

**DULEEP MENDIS:** Yes, I think it must rank as the best innings I have ever played. For one thing, I had been out of form of late. Then I entered at a critical stage when Sri Lanka were eleven for two and I was able to rescue them. I was very pleased at the way I batted and the manner in which I got the runs so quickly. Particularly gratifying was the way I was muddling the ball. I certainly won't forget this innings. But then, Chepauk has always given me the runs.

**SW:** How do you account for your poor form before this match in Tests? You scored only 160 runs in eight innings before coming here.

**DM:** Against England, we had to bat on a bad wicket and that was possibly the reason. In Pakistan, despite my best efforts I still could not get runs. It is just one of those things that happen to a batsman now and then.

**SW:** Stepping out and driving a fast bowler is not easy. Yet you did it time and again to Kapil Dev and Madan Lal. Can you explain how?

**DM:** I always believe that the only way to survive is to counter-attack, to throw it back at the bowlers and go for the bowling. Otherwise, the bowlers will come on top and that is one thing you must never allow happening.

**SW:** There has been criticism that Sri Lanka is not yet ready for the five-day game. As it to prove this, Lanka have collapsed almost every time in the second innings. How do you account for this?

**DM:** I believe this is because most cricket in Sri Lanka is played over one, two and three days. Now in three days you hardly get an opportunity to have a second knock. That is why we have come a cropper when we have had to bat again in the same Test. Also the five day game is new to us. We have to get used to it. But I am confident we will.

**SW:** I have heard people say that you are guilty of throwing away your wicket to had deliveries. How do you aim to curb these temperamental outbursts?

**DM:** Yes, I am aware of the fact that I do sometimes get out foolishly. I have to be more disciplined in my approach and I am trying to curb these temperamental outbursts as you have put it, in a natural manner.

**SW:** One of the reasons why you are so popular in India is that you remind people so much of Vishwanath. Did you deliberately pattern your play on him or did it come naturally?

**DM:** I am a great admirer of Vishwanath's play, of course, but I guess I acquired my style naturally.

**SW:** How do you compare the wickets you have encountered here to those in Sri Lanka and elsewhere?

**DM:** They are fairly slow compared to the ones we have at home or those we encountered in Pakistan. In Delhi and Amritsar this was particularly so but the wicket in Madras is a good sporting track.

**SW:** Are you at home more against pace or spin?

**DM:** Well, no one really likes to face genuine pace. If someone says he likes fast bowling then he is not speaking the truth. So I suppose facing spin is easier. But then a very good spin bowler can also have you in trouble of a different kind.

**SW:** Who is the fastest bowler you have faced?

**DM:** Jeff Thomson.

**SW:** And the best spin bowler?

**DM:** I think that would be Bishan Bedi.

**SW:** What are your future plans?

**DM:** Well, I am not contemplating an early retirement, so I will continue to play for Sri Lanka as long as I am picked and as long as I feel I am good enough.

# PRINCE DULEEP

A CORRESPONDENT reports on the Madras Test  
between India and Sri Lanka

**A**FTER the Madras test match I honestly doubt if the Sri Lankans are ever going to be taken lightly again. Though at no stage did they look like winning the game, I must say the fact that they made considerable moves to save the game and then launch a last minute exercise to draw it with their honours untouched, must surely go a long way to establishing the side as one of the most attractive, if not as effective, in this age's continuous striving for touches of brilliance.

That Mendis, Dias and Ranasinghe put in flashes of power coupled with elegance at times proved that they can be an adriatic side. But the

superstar figure, somewhat staid by current use by contemporaries, has been absent from the island country. Once the cupboard is stocked with one, even a couple, their emergence as a power to contend with will be complete.

By the end of the first day the fears had been confined. Dwindling gate receipts is one worry but by the time the post monsoon sun had slipped beyond steaming Madras the organisers had begun to figure out that the financial prospects would now turn out as poor as they had made it out to be.

Sri Lanka had momentarily ducked at 311 for eight wickets off only

84 overs and if you have remembered what the situation was always like in England in the summer of 1982 then you must have come in for a refreshing change.

As if in a hurry and rousing doubts as to who was pressing who to play for a win, Mendis had started in style then retained his elan and gone right on. He drove Kapil and Madan Lal before turning his attention to Doshi. For a time no Indian appeared to have the formula at hand to contain him, let alone get him out.

At the same time the fielding, too, appeared to have slackened. Run came at an incredible rate, in fact, 78

*Dilip Venkataratnam finds his touch*





Dias is out caught by a diving Lal on the first day

off the very first hour. Not the done way to start a Test match, you could say!

And not also the most customary of ways after you have lost two wickets for 11 runs as happened with the Lankans when they began on the somewhat historic morning, losing Wainapura for four and Gunatilleke for seven.

Roy Dias kept Mendis company as long as the rampage was on. But that, too, in a mostly sedate role as the second fiddle. Every over religiously yielded eight runs and more. At one stage it was not even worth a try guess, where India's success was coming from.

It came when the third wicket stand had already advanced 153 runs, all eye-catching, when Roy Dias tried to work Doshi on the leg side, got an edge and Arun Lal from silly point had held tight diving down the pitch.

Not that this took the fizz away from Mendis' strokeplay. He kept on with his typical attack, the climax of it naturally coming when he lifted Doshi to the leg boundary for a four and then scythed him into the stands to get his hundred. What a way to do it. He didn't last long after that. He survived a leg before appeal and then went out to another as the umpire this time confirmed it—105 and out to Doshi.

There were quite a few more runs to come in the afternoon. It was soon Aruna Ranatunge driving, then heaving but effectively all the same. On one occasion it was two fours in one over giving rise to thoughts whether the carnage had begun again. But Doshi it was again, and auspiciously, too, as he notched his

hundredth Test victim in Ranatunge caught by Vengsarkar at cover. With a few deliveries and with the score still at 204 Lanka's sixth perished, Ranasinghe nabbed by little Lal even before he had scored.

But in a redeeming posture, Sri Lanka carried the fight to the opposite camp and the majority of the remainder of the afternoon was seen out by Madugalle and the legger Somachandra D'Silva, and they surmounted the total by 77 via some typical Test batting of plodding and an inclination of waiting to score. Doshi broke through again and this time he had Madugalle swiping to Madan Lal for 46 and it was the latter with the new ball who compelled Sumachandra to edge to slip for 49. Suddenly the end seemed near but stumps even closer still.

The amusing thought of the day—in some ways, unashamedly unpatriotic—was that Kumari dropped Dias when he was edging Kapil to slip. Had that come about in safer hands the morning might have been ruined!

Quite the expected happened on the second day. Unable to match the batting exuberance of the visitors from across the Strait, India comparatively plodded to a day of frustrating watching at the Chepauk. At the end of the day the home side was safe at 251 for one wicket. Apart from the fact that Gavaskar got himself yet another Test hundred and Arun Lal partnered him in a gritty association of an encouraging opening alliance of 156 there wasn't really much to write about.

Sri Lanka finished in the morning with 346, courtesy Kapil Dev who picked up the last two wickets to

wrap things up. As for Sunil Gavaskar, there is little doubt that he himself would not like to remember this innings as among his most memorable when the years have rolled by. His innings was largely a mixture of caution and safe stroking and seldom did he commit mistakes. It must have been tiring in the first couple of hours, if you have the leg fracture well in mind, and it was only after he had flicked one for his hundred that he turned one to square leg, not entirely along the ground and Mendis, though he tried hard, failed to grip.

After Lal had gone, bowled by De Mel for 63, it was Vengsarkar to pick up the challenge. He tried to force the pace, not succeeding entirely and though the late evening showed him in better light with some fine drives, most of the day was spent plonking the anchor while Gavaskar was stroking quite well, especially after tea.

The third day, truncated by a bout of rain on the evening the day before, put a brake on India's chances and the home team were left stranded after taking the lead at 398 for four wickets. For once the chances of a draw began to materialise and the Indian captain was the centre of much discussion at Madras whether he ought to have declared or forced the innings along. Declare he didn't but there was a marked degree of forcing the pace as Gavaskar clearly exemplified with a hit for six off Somachandra D'Silva. He tried to do a repeat off the same bowler but now was taken almost on the boundary line after his 155 had taken him 399 minutes.

Earlier in the day, Vengsarkar had

# Sidelights

ALL around the M A Chidambaram Stadium, the venue of the Test match between India and Sri Lanka, the graffiti screamed "Gavaskar down down" And alongside it were the words "Venkat up up" The connection is not hard to decipher Cricket fans in Madras are convinced that Venkataraghavan is still good enough to play for the country and are equally convinced that it is Gavaskar's "No" that has kept Venkat out of the Test side for three years now And right through Gavaskar's century knock, there were frequent derisive comments But the 10,000 strong crowd forgot their feelings when the Indian captain momentarily reached his century But derisive comments started again as Gavaskar found it difficult to step up the scoring rate And when at last he was dismissed, the cheering was loud and long Not for the 155 he had made, but for the fact that he had now gone There was booing and shouts of "Step down from the captaincy, Gavaskar" on the fourth evening and again on the last afternoon when he and Yashpal Sharma put down the shutters as Sri Lanka came fairly close to pulling off a triumph

NEVER in over 20 years of watching Test cricket in Madras have I witnessed such strict security as I saw in the Test match against Sri Lanka In a way, this was not unexpected The Sri Lanka High Commission had been increasingly worried over reports that the various parties in the State threatened to go on the rampage because of the death sentence imposed on two Tamil youths in Sri Lanka over a political issue

AMONG all the associations conducting Test matches, the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association has earned a name for itself as the best Officials and players—both visiting and home—have nothing but good to say about the TNCA Spectators too have nothing to complain about With record profits of Rs 30 to 40 lakhs every Test match, the TNCA is able to provide good facilities and is able to maintain the stadium properly It was, however, thought that no such huge profits would result from the match against Sri Lanka Mr Sriraman, Vice President of the Cricket Control Board, who is also the honorary Secretary of the TNCA, took up conducting the Test as a challenge since no other Test centre came forward to host it, obviously fearing a heavy loss

Mr Sriraman, sensing that it would be fitting if Madras staged the inaugural Test because of the city's special connections with Colombo, took it up with the hope of at least breaking even Cuts were made in all expenses and everything was done in a frugal manner. But the lukewarm crowd response—only about 10,000 attended every day—meant that the TNCA was fighting a losing battle. Still, they could have broken even if the rain had not interfered with the third day's play. That happened to be a Sunday and Mr Sriraman pinned his hopes on a bigger crowd that day Because of the weather, the crowd was no bigger than it had been on the other days and the TNCA, for the first time, finished in the red by a little over a lakh

AMONG the crowd was a small group of spectators from Sri Lanka. They were as keen and enthusiastic as their cricketers and cheered and waved a big national flag every time things went right for Sri Lanka—which was quite often. They were careful not to clash with the Indian supporters—who naturally constituted a majority—but quietly took up a place at the far end of the pavilion terrace and encouraged the players from there. Their spirit was obviously transmitted to the men in the middle, as evidenced by the fine performance of the visiting side.

Another small group from Sri Lanka made their presence felt in the same manner. They were the Sri Lanka television crew. They numbered quite a few—technicians, cameramen, commentators. But what caught the eye of even the most fastidious among our TV viewers was their equipment. It was sophisticated by comparison with our TV equipment. Placed side by side, their cameras were so sleek, and easily mobile while the Doordarshan cameras were so bulky and cumbersome. Their video equipment, complete with mini-monitors and colour TV, was simply fantastic and many of the spectators took up vantage positions and saw the match on colour through Rupavahini TV—all through the five days As one spectator moaned "And they say Sri Lanka is a poor country compared to ours."

SUNIL GAVASKAR caused Salarn bells to ring all over the ground—nay, over the country too since the Test was being telecast live over many stations—when he turned up with his slung on the third morning. It did not start till 45 minutes; lunch because of rain and mopping-up operations were going on, spectators and viewers

were astonished to see Gavaskar thus, since he had batted for 282 minutes the previous day, was not out with 122 and had shown no indication of any injury. Was he hurt during the night? Would he resume his innings? Would he be fit for the rest of the match? These were the anxious thoughts that went around before the Indian captain gently explained that he had suffered a minor bruise on his elbow but wasn't taking any chances and hence the large-sized sling. He smilingly posed for photographs, and resumed his innings—slingless—once play started

A TEST match in India is a gala occasion, a social gathering and a festive atmosphere. A cricket fan is not a Trappist monk. Shouting, cheering, whistling, beating of drums and clashing of cymbals is very much a part of the Indian cricket scene

Even foreigners have recognised this. Thus, it was surprising—to put it politely—to see an Indian youth admonish a section of the crowd for "Making noise" "You have come to watch the match. Why then are you making a noise," he burst out, most churlishly. He said so time and again. That was it. He was plainly asking for trouble and got it. He was initially booed by the spectators. Then after the spectators cheered a boundary hit, there were (quickly) sarcastic cries of "Sssshh". Then came derisive laughter for the concerned youth. At the end of the day's play, he virtually had to have a police escort to get out of the ground.

STATISTICIANS, as in any Test match, had a busy day "This is Doshi's 100th wicket in 28 Tests" or "Madan Lal's 50th wicket in 26 Tests" or "Paril's 1000th run in his 16th Test", we were told. That was okay.

But when they got down to "This is Sri Lanka's highest stand for the sixth wicket" and this is "Ranasinghe's highest Test score", it was time to stop jotting down the figures. For a nation playing only its fifth Test match, there are bound to be such minor records. From the Sri Lanka angle, the only noteworthy point was that Mendis had emulated Sir Donald Bradman of Australia (at Melbourne in 47-48) and Everton Weekes of West Indies (at Calcutta in 48-49) as the only other batsmen who had made centuries in each innings of a Test match against India. From the Indian viewpoint, it was India's highest total at Madras (the 566 for six overhauled the 539 for nine against Pakistan in 1960-61).

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played himself into a pleasing nick. Time and again he contrived to circumvent Warnapura and his defensive umbrella and he raced to a zippy 51 off the 68 balls he faced before he was run out, with Roy Dias throwing in to the wicket keeper faster than expected to beat Vengsarkar at 90 trying to get home.

Vishwanath filled in the breach and looked to be setting out to another long innings when he had late cut Somachandra but later, when trying to step out and drive him, he mistimed and Warnapura at midwicket had held on. Sandeep Patil provided the immediate compensations and began quite typically—three boundaries at Ranasinghe's expense and all in one over.

By the end of the day he was batting with 30 off as many balls and Yashpal at the other end was expectedly timid for a man who can alter his moods to suit the occasions. The fourth day was, perhaps, the most exciting when you have the circumstances of the match strictly adhered to. For India saw out the morning and part of the afternoon with Patil advancing to his hundred in a fiery mood and determined to hit every Lankan off the length. Sri Lanka, too, finished on a perplexing note—at 179 for three and with 41 still in the red they were playing like a set of batsmen maddened beyond correction. No ball seemed deserving of respect and for once the visions of an exciting finale were conjured up.

Much of the Indian debt of the day was rounded off to Sandeep Patil. His powered innings left Kapil, too, in the shade and out of the 168 runs that came to be scored on the fourth day from the Indian side, Patil contributed half of them. His ideas were crystal clear when after reaching his century he immediately lifted Ranasinghe for a six and as if that was not enough he hit another for four off the following ball.

Yashpal lasted for not much time

and he went quite early for only 17. Kapil Dev managed 31 off 35 balls, an unequal balance, and consequently not too laudable for such a gifted all rounder and after he had left chasing a Ratnayake delivery to the wicket keeper it was Madan Lal to chip in with some effective boundary hitting. In all he managed five of them to leave India at 566 for six before Gavaskar declared and left Sri Lanka looking absolutely inconsequential in the presence of this overwhelming total.

But the afternoon belonged to Roy Dias, in fact the entire day. Coming in at the loss of the first wicket which fell at six he kept the scores moving at an incredible rate of frenzied boundary blazing. The 50 of the innings came off just 39 minutes and 85 overs—a situation that would have done a one-day side credit. Often Dias fetched himself a couple of boundaries in an over, once even three off Kapil Dev. There looked as if there was little to stop him and indeed there was little as he had already got his fifteenth boundary when just 62. It was a pity that he fell three short of what would have been his second Test hundred, off a mere 108 balls. He went finally, caught by Gavaskar and in the process to give Shukla his first Test wicket.

Mendis had been at the other end for most of time—and overshadowed too. His end-of-the-day 59 had spanned 91 balls and Ranatunge at six seemed to belie his first innings dash.

Mendis picked up the threads from where he had left off and though his innings now was more laborious he showed the necessary application to carry a losing venture right into the enemy's dressing room. He got his second hundred of the match—statisticians here hummed that only three others have done so against India. They were Bradman and Weekes. Some thing in common with

Mendis, if you were there at Madras on the September day.

Ranatunge began the slide for Sri Lanka in the morning when he tried to cut at Doshi and paid for it by snicking to Kirmani behind and just four runs later Doshi induced Madugalle to have a try at him, lifted him all right but Patil had cupped at mid off. That should have packed it up for India but Ranasinghe made amends to his first innings lapse. Atoning, he carted the Indians quite rudely for a 77 that came off just 98 balls. He even lifted Kapil Dev for a boundary over his head and then paid the expense, being bowled in the process. Fifty of his runs had come in boundaries.

Earlier, Mendis had rubbed the salt much deeper. The closer he came to his second century the more fierce he became and never did he show more insolence than when he cut Shukla to move over to 97, took a couple of runs to move within kissing distance. And then, to top it, he rode out and despatched Doshi over the extra cover man for his century. And what if he had been out stumped one short!

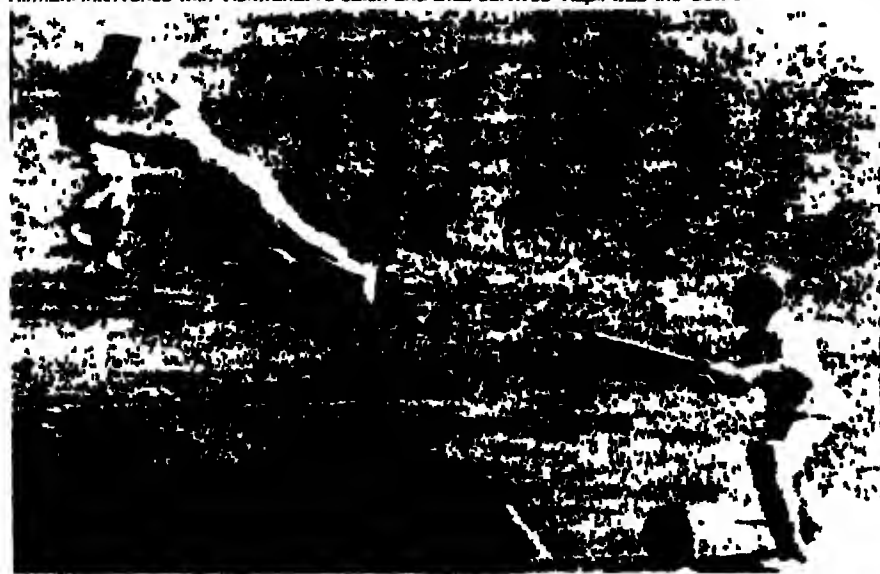
After Mendis and Ranasinghe had departed, much of the challenge was taken up in earnest by Somachandra D'Silva, limiting the thrust of the Indian bowling with a staid 46.

It was Kapil Dev's final burst that finished Sri Lanka off. He had the last two men quickly polished off as Sri Lanka finished for 394, quite good for a second innings tally and especially if you are fighting to save the match. That left India to make 175 to win in 53 minutes and a score of mandatory overs—an even chance.

But the very first over provided the set back when Arun Lal failed to get over the line of the ball and Dias and caught it safe. Vengsarkar followed caught and bowled by De Mel but Patil and Kapil ensured for some time that the fight would not be thrown away.

The two added 62 runs off 52 balls and then India came to the closest to winning. Warnapura resorted to an extremely defensive field—almost watertight—and for most of the time certain boundary strokes were being reduced to futile singles. But then in a most horrible moment Kapil drove Somachandra D'Silva to long off, came down for a single. Not realising that Kapil was not ready for the second Patil had darted down. Both were caught in one crease and by the time Patil made an attempt to recover ground Dias' throw had done it. Patil had made 46 off just 33 balls. With Kapil Dev being expected to carry on the battle at 78 the chances still looked even. But when he had edged De Mel to Gunatilleke the fight had gone out of Indian hands. India finally finished at 135 for seven, forty short. Had Gavaskar declared early

Kirmani intervenes with Vishwanath's catch and Dias survives. Kapil was the bowler.



# Sri Lanka cricket down the years

**I**T does somehow seem fitting that Madras should host the first-ever Test match between India and Sri Lanka. For if India and Sri Lanka have had a special relationship, then the ties between Tamil Nadu and the island country have made it even more so.

The geographical position being what it is, it was inevitable that Tamil Nadu should be close in more ways than one to Sri Lanka. The Palk Strait which separates Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka—and consequently the two countries—is just 22 miles at its narrowest. Invariably, the landing spot for all Lanka touring teams to India has had to be Madras.

In 1952-53 the Gopalan Trophy was instituted in honour of the famous double international. This commenced a contest which was held between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka alternately at Madras and Colombo. Except for two or three years, the contest—an important event in the calendars of both the Cricket Associations—was held regularly for 25 years.

The players of both sides used to look forward with undisguised eagerness to this important and prestigious contest. The matches were keen and the trophy used to change hands at regular intervals, at times even every year. But around the mid-Seventies the importance and the prestige of the contests waned. The reasons have not been hard to pinpoint. Sri Lanka were by that time striving hard for Full Membership of the International Cricket Conference. The fact that they were still involved in an annual match with a State team must have considerably lessened their chances of getting into the exclusive club. Moreover, if they had been beaten in these games it would hardly have strengthened their claims to be a test playing nation and take their place alongside the 'Big Six' of international cricket.

So at first Lanka started sending out teams which were not at all representative of their strongest. This meant that even the Tamil Nadu players did not take these matches very seriously and soon the Gopalan Trophy fixture was relegated to a match which was played at the season's end.

Towards the late Seventies, Sri Lanka gave one reason or the other for their inability to be part of this annual tie. In fact, for three successive years, the match was not played and then suddenly in 1980-81 the teams met again at Salem, where Sri

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Lanka won the trophy. Again, it was not held last year and now, with Sri Lanka having achieved Full Membership, it does not seem likely that they would like to continue playing a State side. The Gopalan Trophy fixture has already outlived its usefulness and it is time that the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association and the Sri Lanka Board called a halt to it. The trophy itself could be put to better use—probably towards a match or even a tournament for the youngsters.

But there is no denying the fact that the 23 Gopalan Trophy games (Lanka won 14 and Tamil Nadu nine) did then bit in helping foster Indo-Sri Lanka cricket ties.

Sri Lanka cannot boast of a cricket history akin to that of India which goes back over 200 years. Still, the beginnings of the game in the sun-kissed, tropical islands can be traced to well over 100 years ago. Like in India, the British brought the game to Sri Lanka, too, and there were matches played between British settlers—mostly military personnel—in the mid nineteenth century. Most of the cricket was played in and around Colombo, and as it was the capital also and an important junction on the chief sea route between England and Australia teams used to stop over at Colombo for a game or two. These games date back to as far as 1863 and this tradition is still being continued over a century later.

In the latter half of the nineteenth century cricket was played chiefly by the rich British coffee and tea planters around the hill country of Sri Lanka (then Ceylon). There are stories that these planters in the districts of Colombo, Kandy and Galle would travel almost 50 miles on horseback through wild country and over rugged terrain to play the game. This enthusiasm, under different circumstances, is still seen today among the island's cricketers.

The pioneer British merchant sportsmen founded the Colombo Cricket Club in 1863. The contributions of this Club to the growth of Sri Lanka cannot be overemphasized. During the formative years, the CCC took upon itself the entire responsibility of running the game in the islands. In Sri Lanka the CCC is frequently compared to the Marylebone Cricket Club, the redoubtable forerunner of international cricket.

The interest and the standard of

the game in Sri Lanka grew steadily towards the end of the nineteenth century and at the beginning of the current one. And a new dimension was added with the Indo-Sri Lankan connection that commenced around 1930. From that moment, Sri Lanka cricket with Indian encouragement took a tremendous upsurge. Of the numerous international teams which have played in Sri Lanka, India, always considered a "good and friendly neighbour" has sent out the most number of touring squads. Sri Lanka, for their part, has always been generous in their praise for India, without whose help they could not have made it into the international arena. India first regularly placed Sri Lanka's case, first for the Associate Membership, and then for the Full Membership as far back as 1964. And when Sri Lanka did play their first official Test match earlier this year, it did seem a triumph for both, Sri Lanka and India.

Around the time the India-Sri Lanka connection was forged the country was fortunate to have a dynamic organiser in Dr John Rockwood, known today as the "Father of Sri Lanka". Dr Rockwood, who was the livewire of the famous Nondescripts' Cricket Club, was also the founder of the Tamil Union Cricket and Athletic Club. Tireless and enthusiastic, Dr Rockwood was instrumental in bringing to the island W. E. Lucas' Indian team in 1926 and Jamshed Antia's team from Bombay in 1929. Other far-sighted pioneers included Robert P. Senanayake and P. Saravanamuttu.

The first tour that aroused tremendous interest in Sri Lanka was the one they sent to India in 1933. The team, led by Dr C. H. G. Nasekara, the first of the many outstanding players produced in the country. He led a strong team which, contrary to expectations, had the better of both the drawn 'Tests' at Lahore and New Delhi.

The good performances of this team did a lot to further enthusiasm in the game. And from then on, the game in Sri Lanka was more organised. The influence of the CCC slowly diminished. Until the beginnings of the Second World War the game in the pearl-shaped island could not be imagined without this club. Notwithstanding the fact that they did encourage local talent, the CCC's spirit was still largely western and about the time of the Second War, with the island on the verge of gaining Independence, it did seem a matter of time before the CCC



actually vanished from the scene that it had largely helped in creating.

It was around this time that the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka took shape. With the help of the CCC it made the lovely Mantland Palace Club at the Colombo Oval, the headquarters of Sri Lankan cricket. Soon the Colombo Oval was not only acknowledged as one of the most picturesque grounds in the world but one which had among the finest pitches, too.

With English teams making a stop at Colombo every four years when on their way to Australia it seemed only a matter of time before the English-Sri Lanka relationship became stronger. With Indian cricketers playing in the Lancashire League in the period immediately after Independence in large numbers it was inevitable that players from Sri Lanka would follow suit. And as the fifties dawned the fresh and dynamic approach of Gamini Goonesena was seen gracing the English cricket grounds. The all-rounder earned a name while captaining Cambridge University and playing for Nottinghamshire. About the same time Laddie (Hutschoorn) turned out for Worcestershire and lent strength to the County for a decade. Then followed Stanley Jayasinghe and Clive Leman, both of whom played for Leicestershire. Leman not only finished as high as third in the English County averages in 1963—an unparalleled feat for a Sri Lanka cricketer—but two years later, he went on to score, what is even now, the fastest half century in first-class cricket. Playing for Leicestershire against Nottinghamshire, he hammered his way to 50 in just eight minutes!

Actually, these four players represented their Counties as cricketers of independent Sri Lanka. But they were preceded by Dr. Gunasekara, who helped Middlesex to win the championship in 1920 and 1921. Two decades later, a couple of Sri Lanka's outstanding cricketers—F. C. de Saram and Michaeldevan Sathasivam—also made their presence felt on English grounds. Not only that, they were also invited to play for the Rest in the Bombay Pentangular!

With India and then Pakistan taking up their cause, it did seem a matter of time before Sri Lanka, already an Associate Member of the International Cricket Conference since 1965 would become a Full Member. But the two neighbouring countries fought a losing battle in successive ICC meetings in the face of strong combined opposition from England, Australia, the West Indies and New Zealand. The four countries seemed to think that while the standard of cricket had no doubt improved there was no concerted effort to expand its scope. Cricket, they said, was being played largely in and around Colombo and hardly any

where else.

Sri Lanka took this up as a challenge. Not only did they expand the base so that a lot of cricket was soon being played in Kandy, Galle, Jaffna and other places, but they also saw to it that cricket at the grassroots was not neglected. At the school level in particular, Sri Lanka showed a tremendous improvement in standard.

So much so, even during the sixties, when the senior team repeatedly lost to India, the school team on the other hand, again and again, got the better of their Indian counterparts. Interest at the college level was something to be seen to be believed and when two top colleges, for example, crossed swords at the Colombo Oval, the ground was not big enough to accommodate the multitude.

One just had to go through the coverage given to these games in the Press and over the radio to grasp their impact. More important, Sri Lanka augmented their financial resources, so much so that they were no more whistle-stop tours to the islands. They were now full-fledged visits. Teams that came to India and Pakistan invariably went to Sri Lanka. Then there were tours to Sri Lanka alone, some lasting for as long as two weeks. In 1972-73 for example, both Pakistan and England visited the island within the space of a couple of months. Guaranteed money was increased and when it was learnt that in 1975 Australia had vetoed Sri Lanka's application for Full ICC Membership because they said "The island lacks financial resources and it is no reflection on the skill and ability of the players", no little effort was made by the organisers, headed Gamini Dissanayake, President of their Board of Control for Cricket, to pool in more money for the game.

This kind of enthusiasm fired their cricketers to reach for higher honours and as the seventies dawned, it was quickly apparent that the opposition to Sri Lanka's gaining Full Membership could not continue for long. In the inaugural World Cup in 1975, Sri Lanka gave a heart warming display against Australia, when in the face of a total of 328, they did not flinch even in the face of fiery bowling by Lillee and Thomson and replied with 276 for four in 60 overs. But they fared badly against the West Indies and Pakistan and this, more than anything else, set their cause back for another few years.

As it was, they still had to wait but for not long. In the 1979 World Cup, they lost to New Zealand but then pulled off a brilliant victory over India. By now no one doubted their prowess in one-day games, but did they have the necessary application, determination, dedication and staying power for the four-day and five-day games?

A tour of England in 1981 proved that they did, for they finished with an impressive record. And finally the dream came true. After several rebuffs, the ICC at last granted Full Membership to the island last year and announced that England would play an official Test at Colombo on their way home from India in February 1982.

Yet, getting into the ICC was not enough. Now Sri Lanka had to prove to the world that they fully deserved this honour. And the formation of the Sri Lanka Cricket Foundation at this stage was among the best things that could have happened. Sri Lanka lacked the playing fields, pavilions and other cricketing infrastructure and facilities that measured up to the international standards. Building all this was not impossible but expensive. With active support from the private sector, the Sri Lanka Cricket Foundation was formed and the inaugural function was attended among others, by Garry Sobers who has always had a soft corner for the island and its cricketers. A sum of Rs. seven million was pledged in a short time and the capital with future augmentation is expected to be used to improve the standard of the game in that country. The objectives of the SLCT are five fold:

- 1 To encourage and support the playing of cricket
- 2 To train coaches
- 3 To assist needy cricketers
- 4 To improve cricket grounds and
- 5 To build stadia

There have been a few more ambitious schemes in the world of cricket and for the fledgling cricketing nation to adopt this massive plan just shows their enthusiasm. Very soon after the SLCTF was formed the Asgiriya Cricket Ground at Kandy was transformed into a lovely stadium that was fit enough to stage a Test match, if necessary. More such stadia and other facilities will obviously be heard of in the near future thanks to the far-sighted plan of forming the organisation.

Enthusiasm, as the cliché goes, is the mother of success, and no one doubts the keenness of the Sri Lanka cricketers. But unfortunately, their daring—almost a daredevil approach—seems more suited to one-day cricket rather than a five-day Test. Indeed, even during the last decade they have had a fine record against all the senior playing countries in limited-over cricket, but have frequently come a cropper in a game played over a longer period. It is this factor that still has many critics shaking their heads in disbelief at the fact that Sri Lanka is a Full Member of the ICC. It is up to their cricketers—always so fresh, dynamic and so different in their approaches—to justify the confidence that the ICC has thrust upon them. The Madias Test gives them a chance of refuting the charges.

To commemorate the Asian Games, State Bank salutes the unknown and unsung sportswoman.

## The Weightlifter



You can see her in an overcrowded bus. Burdened with packages. Smiling apologetically at the angry young man whose toe she has been standing on for the past 2 minutes. You know her well as the working housewife. She's also an expert at balancing. Balancing home and office. Juggling her monthly budget. Making do without extras so that she can save. When her children grumble about not getting extra pocket money, she hides her smile. They are not to know that they have a mini fortune of their own tucked away in various deposit schemes at State Bank. One day, when her children use their savings for really important reasons, maybe she or her husband will tell them how by saving a little at a time they have been able to shoulder the weight of their responsibilities without worry.

  
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# THE GAMES ON TRIAL

ARIJIT SEN reports from Delhi

**T**HE trial games for Asiad '82—on Finalad as it is being called—were no trials at all.

There were lacunae and worse in every sphere of activity. The very purpose of staging the trial games—so that defects in preparations for the Asiad could be localised and removed—were lost in the general unpreparedness.

To begin at the beginning, the infrastructure for the Asian Games were not ready. The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium—the focal point of the Games—is far from complete. Constructionwise, over a month's work remains. This after repeated assurances by the Special Organising Committee that the stadium would be ready by September.

Steel rods, bricks, sand and debris are strewn all over the concrete stands and outside. The upper tier of the 75,000 capacity stadium has not even been fully cemented. The lower tier, which is supposed to have plastic bucket seats, looks like the jagged Colosseum at Rome. There are uncemented brick walls all around, giving the impression of an aban-

doned structure that just might have been.

But perhaps the worst aspect of this stadium—which will certainly look impressive if it is ever completed—is the audio system devised at the last minute. The original plans for this stadium did not contain the crude pillars that now ring the artificial track and the lush green football area.

Obviously, this was an afterthought by those in charge of construction. But whoever was responsible had obviously not seen any modern day stadium anywhere. The loudspeakers could easily have been fitted into the existing structures, provided someone in the Organising Committee had thought of this elementary necessity before the actual construction started.

Now, as things stand, these pillars which ring the actual track and field areas will impede the view of both spectators in the stands and the millions of viewers in India and abroad when Doodarshan films the Asian Games. Repeated queries about these pillars have met with no

response from any quarter. No one seems to know who is responsible for their construction and whether they would be ultimately pulled down. But if they remain standing during the Games, they will certainly disgrace this nation.

The Hall of States, where the table tennis and boxing events were worked out at the Finalad, is a huge impressive structure. But it is very stuffy because the planners thought that since November will be a cold month, there would be no need for air conditioning. But everyone who has been inside for more than fifteen minutes in September knows that the body heat of 5,000 spectators and their need for oxygen will result in a very stifling atmosphere.

Apart from this, there is every likelihood of confusion in and out of the playing area, at least as far as table tennis is concerned. During the trial games, it was extremely difficult for competitors and officials to move around.

When Asia is present in strength during the Asiad, it will be difficult for officials to discharge their duties.

*Persis Madan: the record breaker*



NIKIL BHATTACHARJIA

From the players' point of view, the most difficult proposition is their coping with the extra lights needed for colour television. These have been placed at such an angle that the players will find it very difficult to concentrate on their game.

The Indraprastha Stadium which, like the Nehru Stadium, was meant to be a showpiece with a capacity of 25,000 indoors, presents the same problems to badminton players. The lights will play havoc with their sight. This stadium is also not complete what with the gigantic separation not being ready and the surfaces for the different games being hurriedly placed.

The Badminton Association of India at first refused to hold their team championships under these conditions. It was only at the request of the chairman of the Special Organising Committee, Mr Buta Singh, that they finally agreed to go ahead and risk their Commonwealth squad and their players under these conditions.

The Model Town and Ambedkar Stadium are the only structures that have been more or less completed. Both will do credit to the country. But the same cannot be said about the swimming complex at Talkatora. One misfortune after another seems

to have befallen this particular arena. It is doubtful even now whether it will be ready in time for the Games. According to present estimates, it will be ready by the end of October, but this seems unlikely if one is to go by past promises.

There is a running battle between the Special Organising Committee and the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, whose members constitute the bulk of the Technical Committee. All these years, officers of the NSNIS had been going out frequently to study conditions abroad. And all along, they had been critical of the various federations conducting different games. As a Games official rightly put it: "This is the first time that the NIS itself has been put to the test. And everyone who has been to the Trial Games has seen how miserably they have failed."

The curtain dividing the Indraprastha Stadium into two takes seven minutes to drift down. It is a beautiful sight but once again, laudatory planning has made it imperative that a change is made immediately. The curtain is white. Badminton rules stipulate that the background must on no account be white. Now the planners will have to either colour the screen or mar its beauty by

putting up an additional 40-foot high coloured screen.

The food at the Asian Games village needs to be considerably improved if we are to reach anywhere near international standards. The IFDC, in charge of catering, came up with stale food on some days. And it made it a practice to provide vegetarian food every alternate day.

Apparently, the wrestlers and weightlifters are "well". So the IFDC chose to take it out on the other athletes and sportsmen. Why weren't the athletes given a choice of non-vegetarian food every day? There are athletes who prefer meat and fish to a strict vegetarian diet. And it is extremely important for an athlete to be satisfied with the food he eats because it has a strong psychological impact. Besides, an athlete should always be given choice of food. Why should there be an authority to decide on the exact menu that an athlete must have?

The technical committee decided to organise swimming competitions in the National Stadium complex. More important than the fact that the spectator capacity was extremely limited, the chlorine content of the water was so high that it affected the sight of almost all the swimmers.

Talking about the National Sta-

## Athletics: Running riot

**T**HE man at the helm has never run in his life. Nor is he particularly good in the organisation sphere. The result is that the discipline he looks after is now, perhaps, looking after him.

This is the allegation of several athletics officials when confronted with questions on the many shortcomings at the Trials. Mr Sivia, who is the secretary of the Amateur Athletics Federation of India, has not been able to cope with the many problems he encountered during the athletics meet at the Trial Games. Attention was focussed on athletics because it will be the greatest highlight of the Asian Games. But whichever way one looked, there were glaring shortcomings.

Organisationally, the meet was a flop. There was a scramble for official positions because everyone knew the format would remain unchanged for the Asiad. Mr P. Matilal of the Railway Sports Control Board, was listed for the Ceremonies Sections. When he opened the souvenir brought out on the occasion, he found his name struck out. And no reason was offered.

On the track and field, there were several officials who were told to just get off the field

Again, no reasons were given, but these dedicated athletics officials were brushed away so that people close to the powers that be could be accommodated.

The electronic equipment for the Games did not arrive. In fact, they are due only a few days before the Games. Since most track and field officials are not used to such equipment, there is a possibility that they will not be properly utilised because of lack of practice. The giant score-board was also not fully functional and, often, there were discrepancies between the timings shown on that board and the smaller one placed on the opposite side of the Nehru Stadium.

The artificial track has not yet levelled fully. There are still some air pockets, which makes it uneven. Stained rolling and watering may ultimately smoothen it uniformly, but one hopes that will happen before the women's festival commences.

The AAFI and the technical committee of the AGSOC combined to present the athletes with a ridiculous situation. Although the athletes could have had three days of practice before the meet started, they couldn't get onto the track and field before the actual meet commenced because they

were not provided with the special shoes needed for this artificial surface.

After the athletes created a ballyhoo, everyone connected with this mess looked around for a scapegoat. None was found. The situation worsened by the second day of the meet when jumpers were asked which was their take-off foot. The organisers were apparently in such short supply of shoes that they wanted to hand out one odd to each!

But what really took the cake was the non-inclusion of Rita Sen in her squad for the Commonwealth Games. She sprinted to victory in the short events and even took records under her belt. But the Patials and AAFI bosses felt she was not good enough to represent the country. This brings to mind the allegations about timings and time-keepers at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports. It is reported that the hand-timings always seemed to suit the thinking of officials with regard to selection of athletes.

The only consolation for athletes without godfathers is that the final camp for the selection of Asiad athletes will be held in Delhi and not at Patiala.

ARIJIT SEN



NIKHIL DHATTACHARYA

dium, one has to point out that here again, there has been faulty planning. The stadium, which was the centre of activity during the first Asian Games, has been earmarked for hockey. The playing area, naturally, is a lot less than for football. As a result, after the astro turf had been laid, it was found that the spectator stands were very far removed from the action. The stands could have been greatly increased by hinging them closer to the playing area.

The same is the case with the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. A bit of space has been left wasteful outside the field of action. As a result the spectators at the top of the second tier are about fifty feet farther away from the action than they need have been.

Organisationally, too, the Triad was almost a disaster. The Games Village, which is still not complete, was witness to the trials and tribulations of sportsmen and officials. There was a lack of drinking water from the start. Tankers were pressed into service, but won't it make India a laughing stock in Asia if these were used during the Asiad? Then again confusion reigned over the allotment of beds to different categories of officials and players. While one particular individual had a whole flat—which means eleven beds—to himself, ten people were huddled into another meant for six. One referee was even asked to stay with a foot-

ball team he expected to supervise in the invitation tournament billed for the Triad!

Then again, some members of the technical committee of the Special Organising Committee made utter nuisances of themselves by trying to oversee the operations of the different federations which were asked to conduct their respective disciplines.

The matter of payment of allowances to sportsmen and officials was carried to ridiculous lengths. One SOC official went to the extent of asking Swimming Federation of India members whether they had actually come first class in trains to the capital. They said they would pay actuals in that regard. A whole delegation of sports medicine officials invited to do Triad duty had to fend for themselves in every sphere. They were not provided with accommodation and were not even extended the common courtesy of soft drinks on the field—which others not directly connected with the events were gulping at will.

More important equipment for several disciplines had either not arrived or were not distributed by technical committee officials. The shooters were worst hit. Clay pigeons, essential for practice and competition, had not arrived. That entire competition had to be scrapped and Dr. Kaur Singh refused to go to Brisbane for the Commonwealth Games because he did not want to

face competition without practice.

The Organising Committee blundered on regardless. Six tables and two typewriters were all that were available to journalists in the Press Centre at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. There was no sign of the telex machines supposed to have been put there during the Trial Games. Even these essentials were missing at the other venues.

Bickering among officials of different departments, which started a long time ago, has intensified with the removal of SOC secretary, Gill. He reportedly fell out with chairman Bata Singh. At other levels, too, vague work delimitations have resulted in confusion.

The Asian Games Special Organising Committee has one more chance of correcting its mistakes and ensuring that the Games are held smoothly. The Women's Sports Festival will be held in Delhi—at all the venues marked for the Asiad—from October 16 to 23. That period should be taken as the final dress rehearsal for the Games. This means the stadium should be ready, the equipment on hand and the officials and workers at their respective stations. The present refrain 'Sub thik ho jayega' will simply not do thereafter.

**T**HE athletics scene at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was an example of agony and ecstasy. Although the top positions in the various events were claimed by the Asiad probables, over all performances—with only a few exceptions—were rather discouraging. After all the conditioning camps and the trials at Patiala where athletic coaches boasted of vast improvements and brighter prospects at the Asiad, one feels rather let down after the final Games. Will we be able to repeat or surpass our previous Asiad medal tally on home ground? There is hardly anything noteworthy by way of progress in the men's section. The only redeeming factor in this section was that one meet and one national record each was bettered. The women, however, literally put their counterparts in the shade with seven meet and four national records, while one more meet record equalled in the 16 events.

Judging by the time and distance trials in both track and field events at Patiala a fortnight before the Delhi meet, one expected that the successful athletes would either repeat their feats or perform better at the open competition. Sadly, the reverse was true. Take for instance, the case of the hefty Bahadur Singh. At the Patiala trials he heaved the shot putt 18.68 but at the capital's oval-shaped stadium he managed only 17.87 metres, while Vijay Bahadur's performance also showed a downward trend.

Broad jumper Ravi Kumar was another disgrace. His best leap this season was his only goes to prove that

## Scramble for the torch

**O**N November 19, the attention of the whole of Asia will be riveted on the flame that will be brought into the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to signal the start of the ninth Asian Games. Naturally, the man and/or woman carrying the torch to light the cauldron will be the centre of attraction.

Who will this or these persons be? At the moment, more than ten names are being considered. Arriving at a conclusion will be difficult for IOA President, Raja Bhalendra Singh and Minister of State for Sport-cum-Chairman of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee, Mr. Bata Singh. The names are being the Deputy Chairman of Mr. Umrao Singh.

Pressures are coming from various quarters for different athletes and sportsmen who had distinguished themselves in the past. It is a difficult situation because there is no basis for evaluation of the merits of the "contenders".

There is, for example, a proposal for the selection of the most outstanding athlete India has pro-

duced. Undoubtedly in this case, the honour would fall on the 'Flying Sikh', Milkha Singh.

On the other hand, some influential people contend that the person who has won the most gold medals should be chosen to carry the torch into the stadium. In this case, it would have to be a hockey player because India has consistently won Olympic and Asian medals in this sport.

Obviously, it is going to be very difficult to choose a person from such a wide range of stars. And one will be surprised if it is not suggested from Punjab, because that is the strongest in Delhi. It is in the vicinity of the Asiad venue is concerned.

In fairness to the only choice open is to most outstanding athlete of sportsmen. He was the Asian Games held in Delhi in 1951. It would be an honour to carry the torch for all sportsmen. It would also be a great honour for India to have the torch carried by a person who has won the most gold medals in the history of the Asian Games.

ARJIT SEN

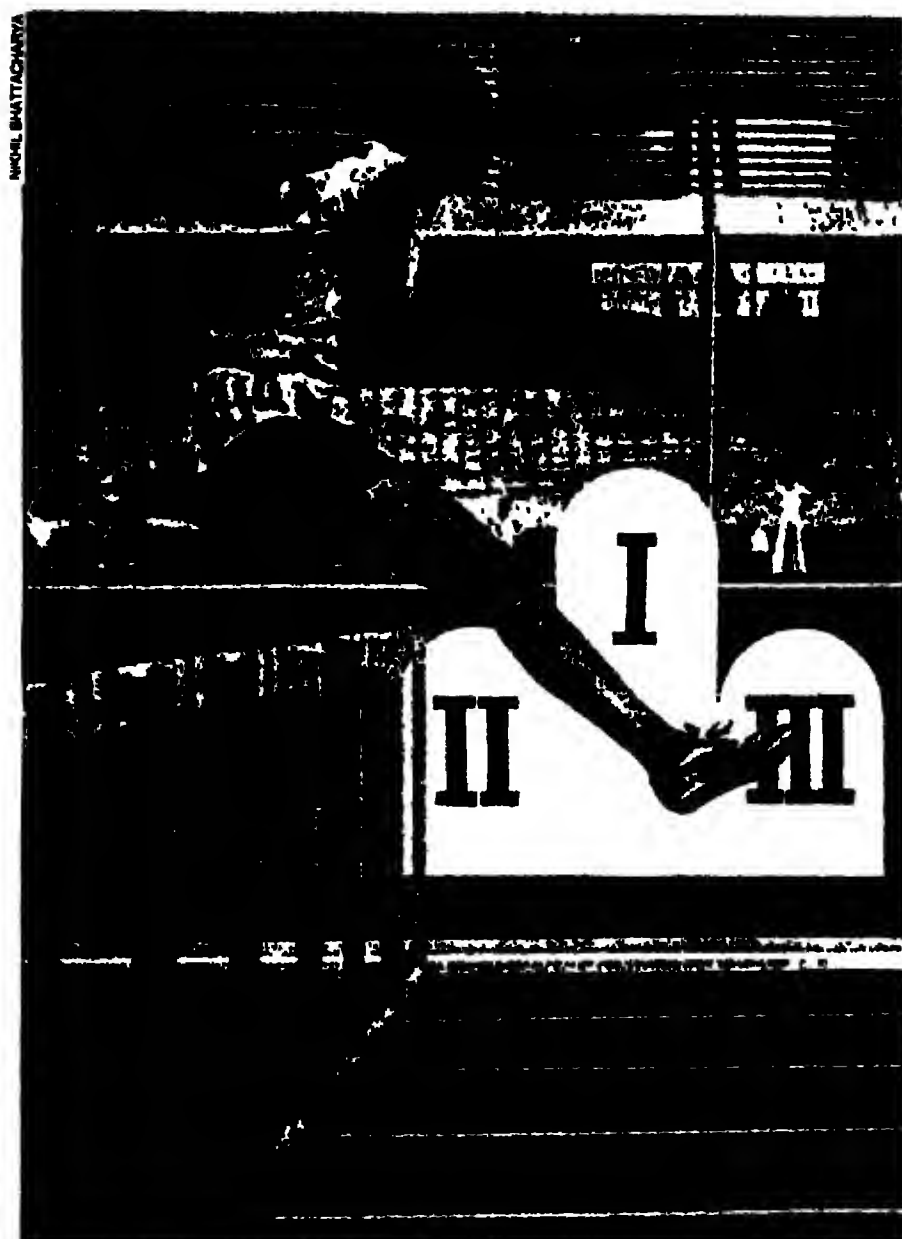


they are still shy of international exposure on the eve of the Asian Games. Hopefully, Sabir Ali, India's decathlon gold prospect, should recover from the detrimental affects of the German tour.

Yet another sensational stir which was created in the four day meet was by Karnataka's junior international Anand Shetty who pipped seasoned campaigners like Adille Sumariwala and Murh Kuttan in both the 100 and 200m dash. The 18 year-old sprinter has a bright future provided, of course, he gets the right guidance.

Women definitely cornered more of the glory. There were doubts whether Bengal's ace sprinter Rita Sen would match up to the speed of P. I. Usha and Sree Kumari Amma. With Usha's indisposition the tussle was centred around Rita, Sree Kumari, Vandana Rao, Haroda Banu and Kunjn Kunjamma. But Rita set the tracks ablaze to ultimately become the queen of the track with a triple and an equal number of meet records. This in fact was a rare distinction in Indian athletics. On two other occasions Olympian Milkha Singh and lately Premchandran had achieved this distinction. Though Anuradha Uthiah did claim the three sprint golds in the 1972 inter State meet she failed to lower any meet record. In the heats Rita clocked 11.9 and dashed the 100 m final in 12.01 sec. to win her first victory in the last four Open meets. However, her timing in the final was two seconds outside her personal best. Rita ran in style to notch up meet records in 100m (5.40 sec) and 200m (24.7 sec). After all this she missed the bid to Brisbane. M. D. Valsamma lived up to her reputation of the 400m hurdles. She became the first Indian to clock below 61 seconds while short and frail Shashikala Ramchandran broke the 10 minute barrier in the 3,000m by clocking 9.59.6. Bhemsinghi Devi of Manipal broke the javelin 46.42 metres to shatter Daven Puri's long standing record. Metu Mathew created a meet record with a leap of 6.22 metres but she can do better than this. Angel Mary Joseph almost touched the magical figure of 5,000 points in the heptathlon. Though Geeta Zutshi won her middle distance double easily she was quite a disappointment. She returned her standard timings, 2.10 and 4.30 in the 800 and 1500, respectively. Being an Asian gold medalist at Bangkok Geeta can surely perform better. Perhaps this handful of women are the best we have at the moment in athletics. As for the men, chief coach Sami will have to give a serious thought after the miserable performance at Delhi.

**T**HL record breaking spree by leading Indian swimmers during the six-day Nationals was unique. And if there is one person who can claim credit for this, it is the East



11 on her way to the hurdles, Anita Sood

German coach Bernd Jonke. With such splendid performances to my credit, I can guarantee that our swimmers will further improve. At least, Jonke feels that way. He asserted during the Trial Games that all timings will be lowered further at the Asiad. Though all this seems very encouraging, there is no room for complacency because we are far behind when it comes to Asian standards.

To begin with, Anita Sood did not have it all her way due to an injury and ear trouble which affected her build up. But the way she fought the challenge of team mates Persis Madan, Geeta Anand and Bengal's little Bula Choudhury was impressive. Her breaking the 10 minute barrier in the 800 m freestyle and the 200 m freestyle are two unique examples. In fact, the improvement in her 800 m timing was quite meteoric, from 10.13.1 last year she reduced the timing to 10.01 and finally clip-

ped it to 9.58.0 at the Trial Games. She reduced her existing 200 m freestyle mark of 2.18.0 by 0.2 seconds.

In the Madras Nationals, Anita Sood, Persis Madan and Wilson Chennan cornered the glory but at the NIS pool there was an altogether different picture. Here Persis Madan, 16 year old Geeta Anand and 12 year old aqua queen Bula Choudhury--the youngest girl to don India colours--and finally Khar Singh from Police were in the limelight.

Persis Madan remained the backstroke expert and snatched the medley glory from Anita. She improved the 100 m backstroke timing by 13 seconds on her existing record of 1.13.8 and went further to win the 200 m back with a timing of 2.38.2. In the 200 m medley, she bettered her own mark with a timing of 2.44.2 while Anita improved by 2.8 seconds. There was no stopping her as she



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went on to clinch the 400 m medley with 5 25 1

Moulded by Ihunke, Geeta Anand did wonders to emerge the breast stroke specialist when she rewrote both the 100 and 200 m events. She clipped off a fantastic 9 9 seconds off the existing record of 3 04 5 in the 200 m and shattered Manipuri's Khannmala Devi's mark of 1 25 4 when she clocked 1 23 9. But Japan's Hioko Nayasaki has the best timing of 1 11 08 in this event.

Diminutive Bula was the sensation at this meet as she had been at the Nagpur Age Group competition earlier. Within a few hours she broke the 200 butterfly record twice. In the heats she lowered a brilliant Persis Madan's timing by 11 seconds. In the final Bula clocked 2 29 7 but she is still 13 28 seconds slower than Japan's Y. Hatanaka (Asian mark 2 02). Ihunke is hopeful that Bula can improve further.

The men's section saw brothers Dhanampal Singh Lokas and Khazan Singh Lokas on the rampage. Elder brother Dhanampal snatched the 400 freestyle gold with a timing of 4 30 for a new meet record (old mark 4 35 8). This event saw a keen battle among Dhanampal, Sanjib Chakraborty and Khazan Singh and all three surpassed the old record. Later Dhanampal eclipsed Mohinder Singh's 1981 mark of 15 21 2 in the gruelling 500 freestyle when he clocked 15 17 9. Khazan took the 400

medley after putting aside teammate T. J. Jacob's record (5 22 3) for new figures of 5 07 0.

But the German coach says that if Khazan improves his butterfly timing he can break the five-minute barrier. But even then the Asian timing is cut of reach (4 39). He followed up his victory with another new record in the 200 butterfly he clocked 2 15 9 in the heats and shaved off a further 14 seconds in the final.

Railway's Wilson Chennan bettered both the 100 and 200 backstroke records and he seems to have a strong grip at both these events. He bettered his 200 m timing of 2 22 4 by 0 7 second and figured 1 05 in the 100 m. A similar feat was also pulled off by Police's Inuba Singh in the two breaststroke events. From 1 12 9 in the 100 m he clocked 1 11 4 while in the 200 m he did 2 37 which is 3 3 seconds inside his own mark. Another policeman T. J. Jacob who claimed to be the medley expert earlier salvaged some reputation when he improved his 200 m medley mark by 1 5 seconds to clock 2 17 8.

Young Sanjib Chakraborty became the fastest sprinter in the country when he recorded victories in both the 100 and 200 freestyle. In fact Ihunke commented in these columns earlier that Sanjib has scope at improving. He surely proved this when he broke Sumasekharan's record of 57 1 by

timing 56 7 but he did have a better timing at Patiala in the 55-56 seconds range and can prove himself. He took the 200 m with a time of 2 05 4. So he did play a vital role in Railway men's team lifting the championship while Maharashtra won the women's. Of course, Persis Madan and Bula Choudhury were the individual stars.

**T**RULY, a new era dawned in Indian hockey when the international hockey tournament was played on the astroturf at the National Stadium. It was always on the cards that the IHF team, comprising the Asian probables, would be the top contenders, but the Central Zone outfit earned a very special place for themselves by the showing of their promising juniors.

This year, the tournament was played on a round robin basis. As far as new talent went, the most promising players were Central's Naeem, Lahiri and Yadav, West's Nagesh Azad, and South's Gurucharan Singh, fullback M. P. Singh, goalie Rawat. It is a common knowledge that this artificial surface produces more goals than natural grass and there was no more clear example of this than the IHF's 5-1 romp against South Zone. Yet, it was even more noticeable that the victors did not display the kind of finesse one would have expected of a side that has been rigorously trained on astro turf.

Left to right: At a moment during Central Zone at the National Stadium



In fact, other than Charanjit Kumar on the flank, the rest of the forwards lacked any real proficiency. There is still the old weakness in the half line, while the conversion of penalty corners without the indispensable Rajinder Singh, was extremely poor. Despite the fact that South lost, there were still creditable performances from Rajashekhar, Yuvaraj and right back Javashkhar.

While the tussle for the inevitable last spot produced keen competition, the IHF team went closer still to the title when they won 9-2 against Central Zone. After the latter had equalised in the early stages of the game, the IHF side slammed the door in their faces when they scored four goals in the short span of six minutes to throttle the challenge. Thereafter, there was nothing to stop them from lifting the title and they overcame North Zone as predicted, although the IHF boys had to manage without full back Gurdishpal Singh who was shown the dreaded red card.

Certainly, the gold medal is going to produce a close struggle, come November. India only has one Asiad hockey gold to its credit at Tokyo, but our prospects this year are perhaps as bright as they ever will be.

**PUNJAB POLICE's** emergence as the winners of the final Games invitational football tournament held at the capital once again proved that speed and stamina are the most important factors in modern soccer today. The way they trounced their rival contenders for the title showed that if they had had any real advantage over others it was their ability to send the opponent's defence in disarray by launching swift moves aided enormously by their superb physical fitness.

Punjab Police's closest rival in the arena were possibly BSF. But they did not have as good a tournament as the former. And it was their inferiority to the Punjab Police players, as regards speed and stamina that proved their undoing in the final which they lost by a solitary goal. Both the teams adopted more or less the same strategy—to play a fast game and clinch the issue early. But Punjab Police had much more penetration and combination in their attacks which often caught the BSF defenders on the wrong foot.

But efforts on the latter's part were always relentless, but for which the Punjab players could have triumphed by a much bigger margin.

Punjab Police, however, had to toil hard to overcome the stiff hurdle when they met Bengal Juniors to ensure their berth in the final. The match ended in a one-all draw, a result quite unexpected as the Bengal boys had no chance to make it to the finals after a few setbacks prior to this encounter. But their morale was quite high and they fought neck to neck with Punjab Police who

needed only one point to go to the finals.

In the other semi-final BSF trounced JCT 3-1, with their ace footballer Pradeep Subba scoring a brilliant hat-trick. Like Punjab Police, BSF also needed just a draw to make it to the finals. But never did they seem to take things easy, because a match against JCT is always a prestige issue. So they went all out to register a convincing victory.

The leading spirit behind this effort was Narendra Gurung. It was he who paved the way for Pradeep to get his hat-trick. After the first half being entirely dominated by BSF, JCT made some efforts to come back into the game in the second half. Then veteran Indel Singh took it upon himself to spearhead moves and once took a powerful shot at the goal, which rebounded off the cross-piece unfortunately.

They got their consolation goal towards the close of play when the BSF custodian Budda Singh missed a ball and Kashmira Singh of JCT seized on the opportunity to score the only goal for his side.

In an inconsequential match Services outplayed Delhi 3-0. Services finished the tournament with six points (two wins and two draws) while Delhi lost all their matches.

Punjab Police was given a big jolt for the first time when their winning streak was stopped by Services in a goalless match.

Earlier, BSF downed Bengal Juniors 7-1. It was a really humiliating defeat for the national champions. In the first half itself BSF scored as many as three goals thanks mainly to their aggressive tactics that they adopted from the very beginning of the encounter. The hero once again was Narendra Gurung who drew the first blood. Bengal did not recover from the shock they suffered in the first half and the second one saw them go even more on the defensive. This made it much easier for BSF to raid their goal areas time and again. The result was four more goals.

In another match JCT revived hopes of reaching the finals when they routed Delhi 5-0 and the chief architect of their success was Kashmira Singh, the diminutive football genius, who scored four of the five goals, including a hat-trick. It was JCT's second win in four matches till then.

**Asst Banerjee adds**

**T**HE "Indian leopard", B S Thapa's return to the ring is certainly very happy news for boxing fans. Thirty-year-old Thapa has won the national title five times. Not only is he a recipient of the Arjuna award but he has also won a silver medal in the Ninth Asian Boxing Championship at Bombay, a gold in the "Mint Commonwealth Games" in Brisbane and a bronze in the Com-

monwealth Games at Edmonton. Thapa's participation in the last two Asiyads at Indonesia and Bangkok did not however, bring him any laurels.

Thapa was absent from the boxing scene at Seoul, the rumour being that he was unable to take any more blows. In fact, after a 12-year rigorous career, the tired Gurkha had gone away to settle down into the quiet and peace of a newly wedded life.

And soon a new Thapa emerged—stronger and bolder. Now he uses both hands with equal power, speed and ease. This is matched with an aggressive temperament, essential for the game. His right jab is powerful and accurate. He slips the opponents' straight lefts and gives a right cross, left uppercut—and most boxers are knocked out by this systematic, well-timed combination.

So our Gurkha boxer B S Thapa tops the Brisbane list. The others are Issac Amaldass (fly), G Mandharan (bantam), M Xavier (feather), C Macharia (welter) and Kour Singh (heavy).

If we fall back on the American coach Sam Hickman -- who has produced several world class boxers -- he feels that Thapa is a "complete fighter".

Young M Xavier (22 years) won a bronze in Seoul and is a promising fighter for India. Twenty-seven-year-old Macharia with his Arjuna award is the only knock out puncher of the country. He has won seven medals from various countries in his career from 1974 to date.

time to bring him recurring success.

And lastly, there is our gold winner—the gigantic Kour Singh. Thirty-year-old Singh has actually set a record in Indian boxing by winning four gold medals within the brief span of three years—1980 to 1982. With his strong will and punch power, this man could create history in Indian boxing.

The Indian boxers' list, however, has remained incomplete without the inclusion of Jasraj Pradhan, the Seoul gold medalist. His name was cancelled from the 29th National Championship in Delhi even though he turned up for the weigh-in. M S Chako, the Services team manager, says that Pradhan is physically unfit for an international meet as he is suffering from aches in his limbs. With the aid of specialists and medical men, Pradhan might have a bout or two in the Asiad, but his name is certainly out from the Commonwealth list. Pradhan is confident that he will face the Asian rings. And the boxing fans share his hopes.

Despite all our optimism, we should consider Samuel Hickman's statement, "The Commonwealth Games participants in boxing are very tough." And our chances of faring well against the boxing giants of Canada, Australia or even the African countries is rather lean.

*Look out for them. They will be going places*



Mats Wilander, winner of the French Open at seventeen

**B**EFORE mid-May, Mats Wilander's most notable on-court achievements were last November at Stockholm (quarters) and Bangkok (runner-up to Bill Scanlon), the 1981 French Open Juniors crown and a final-round appearance in March at Brussels. There, after straight-setting Manson, Theissen, Teacher and Glickstein, Mats let slip a 6-4, 4-2 lead over Gerulaitis and finally lost 4-6, 7-6, 6-2. Nonetheless, that week helped establish his confidence and, two months later, once he had holstered it at Rome with a jaunt to the semis, the 5'-10" right-hander from Vaxjo was ready to invade Paris. There, unseeded and ranked 30th, Mats did the expected and beat the three men he outranked: Alejandro Corres, Cassio Motta and Fernando Luna. Then, with an abruptness that could induce the bends in less sturdy constitutions, he eclipsed Borg's exile and Lendl's dominance to become the tennis story of the spring by proceeding to upset four of the planet's top eight players—the tournament's second, fifth, fourth and third seeds—namely, Lendl, Gerulaitis, Clerc and Vilas. Since then, he led Sweden's Davis Cup contingent to St. Louis, beat Jeltscher and played McEnroe five sets and six-plus hours before losing the fifth point of that tie. A week later, he won the Swedish Championship in Bastad over his 18-year-old countryman, Henrik Sundstrom. The youngest male ever to win a Grand Slam singles title, Mats, now ranked No. 10, turned 18 on August 22.

## JIMMY ARIAS

**F**OR a year that began as a bust, 1982 may just turn out to be a booming success for Jimmy Arias, the high school-working man from the Buffalo suburb of Grand Island who turned 18 on August 16. The youngest male, at 15, ever to play and win a match at the Open, for the first six months this year Arias struggled manfully to regain the form that brought him a USTA/Penn Circuit title last June in Shreveport, La. Then ranked 157th, Jimmy straight-settled Mike Cahill in the semis but was given little chance against Eliot Teltscher in the final. There, displaying the characteristic impudence of youth, Jimmy fooled the experts, upset the favorite and emerged with his first pro title. More recently, after a dismal stretch earlier this year when he won but two matches in his first eight events, Jimmy began turning things around in Paris. There, site of his 1981 mixed doubles triumph with Andrea Jaeger, he stung Shlomo Glickstein, throttled Uli Pinner and extended Chip Hooper to a fourth-set tie-breaker. Back stateside, in D.C. Jimmy found his



rhythm and eased into the semis, there to face Jose-Luis Clerc. Again, observers foretold Jimmy's inevitable and sudden ouster, but again the youngster prevailed, battling back from a set down to unseat the defender. After losing to Lendl in the final, Arias then granted an encore of his runner-up effort, this time at the Clay Courts in Indianapolis where he nearly outlasted Jose Higueras in the final. In so doing he lifted his ranking right to the edge of the top 30.

## MEL PURCELL

**V**IRTUALLY unknown two years ago outside the college ranks, almost overnight Mel Purcell burst into the tennis limelight and became one of the brightest young stars in the game. After winning the NCAA doubles championship for the University of Tennessee with Rod Harmon, Mel turned pro two years ago in Boston and then upset a hot Lddie Dibbs in Washington. Awarded a wildcard into the Clay Courts, Mel not only survived the qualifying, but in the main draw went on to topple Pascal Portes, Hank Pfister, Harold Solomon, Wojtek Fibak and Mario Martinez before locking horns in the nationally televised final with Jose Luis Clerc. After Indy, he continued to impress opponents and endear himself to fans, not only through his championship efforts at Tampa, Atlanta and Tel Aviv, but also through his lack of pretension, scrambling, all-out style and contagious delight in playing the game. Currently ranked just inside the world top 20, last September on these courts Mel fell once again to Clerc after having downed Ilie Nastase and Shlomo Glickstein. In '82 he has reached the fourth round at Paris, the quarters at Monterrey, Tampa and Forest Hills, and finals at L.A. and Boston where he beat Ivan Lendl in the quarters. Doubles titles have come partnering Teltscher in Delray and Chip Hooper in Munich, while Mel and Tracy DeLatte were runners up to Amaya and Pfister in Monterey.

## BETTINA BUNGE

**A**LTHOUGH she won't turn 20 until next June, 1982 may well be remembered as the year Bettina Bunge came of age. Seeded twelfth at last year's Open, the slender right-hander's best outings in 1981 were in Tokyo and Houston as runner-up, in Dallas, Seattle, Los Angeles and Mahwah, where she reached the semis, and Flashing where she got to the round of sixteen before top-seed Chris Evert-Lloyd eliminated her

Born in Switzerland and now living in Coral Gables, Fla., being the daughter of an international businessman has enabled Bettina to play for the national championship of Peru at age 13 (she won it), help fortify the West German Federation Cup team since 1980 and to learn four languages. But however you say it, when she opened 1982 by reaching the quarters at D.C. the final at Cincinnati and the quarters

at Seattle all in the course of three weeks, you had to admit that she was off to her fastest start yet. Then following a month's respite, Bettina returned to the tour in Houston sufficiently refreshed to straight set Lea Antonopolis, Mary Lou Piatek and Dianne Fromholtz before downing Pam Shriver in a hard fought three-set final. Then, following some early-round losses, Bettina rebounded when spring broke, reaching the



*Bettina Bunge rapid rise on the ATP computer*

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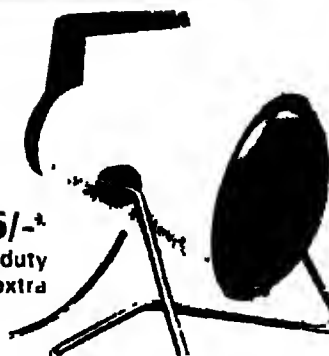
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semis at Amelia Island and throttling Rinaldi 2 and 2 on clay in the final at Berlin. A semi-finalist at Eastbourne in June, Bunge's dubious reward for ousting Anne Smith from the Wimbledon quarters was to face Navratilova in the semis.

## ZINA GARRISON

**T**HIS time last year, if you spent some time watching the juniors, you probably couldn't help but notice Zina Garrison pummeling one of her six victims en route to her generally unchallenged surge to the U.S. Open Girls' championship. Though she needed to win a second-set tie-breaker in the semis to stay alive against Helena Sukova, Zina, who two months before had won the Wimbledon Juniors, went on from that narrow escape to defeat her young Czech opponent 6-0 in the third. In fact, only in her first-round defeat of Sweden's Catrin Jexell (6-2, 6-4) did the right-handed Houstonian fail to win a set at love. Now making her third appearance in the women's draw here, in 1980 as a qualifier she pushed Dianne Fromholtz to three sets in the first round, while last year, as a wildcard, Zina threw a similar scare into seventh-seeded Wendy Turnbull. Though she failed to get beyond the first round in her first three events of 1982, over the course of 12 weeks this spring Zina enjoyed four excellent outings in succession, reaching the quarters consecutively at Hilton Head, Paris and Eastbourne and persisting to the fourth round at Wimbledon. En route to those results, the former U.S. Girls' 16 national champion (d. Leand) recorded decisive wins over Bunge, Jausovec (twice), Goolagong and others, and bowed only to the likes of Jaeger, Mandlikova and Navratilova (twice). The ATA women's champion in 1979 and 1980, Zina turned professional during this spring's French Open.

## CHIP HOOPER

**I**N December Chip Hooper's ranking stood at a pretty obscure 235. Sure, he had won the NCAA Indoor in 1981, had reached the quarters at the NCAA Championships two years running and had twice been accorded All-American status at Arkansas, however, neither those accomplishments nor his strong performances on the 1981 USTA Penn Satellite Circuit brought him either profuse raves in the press or an inventory of "good wins." In other words, Chip was totally unprepared for his electrifying advance during the last week of January. Then, after surviving the qualifying for Philadelphia's U.S. Pro Indoor, the 6' 6" right hander proceeded to overpower Peter Fleming, fourth seed Roscoe

Tanner and John Sadri. In the semis, Chip took the first set off Connors and led 6-2 in the second-set tie-breaker before Jimmy dug down and rode his ripping ground strokes to a 9-7 verdict and the set. Though Hoops eventually dropped that match in four, the point had been made. The 23-year-old had surely come far fast, and subsequent results have only served to prove that Philly was no fluke. Since then, Chip's huge serve has helped him to a semi-final finish in Frankfurt, quarter-final results at Monterrey, Rotterdam and Munich, the fourth round in Paris, to match wins over Steve Denton, Brian Gottfried, Mel Purcell, Tomas Smid and Peter McNamara, and to an eminently respectable ranking of 27th in the world.

## BARBARA POTTER

**I**F 1981 was Barbara Potter's year to establish herself as a force among the game's elite, then thus far 1982 has been her time to consolidate her gains, reinforce her top-ten status and throw one last shovelful of sand on the rumour that claimed her game was limited to an awesome serve. Seeded eleventh at last year's Open, the 5'9" lefty from Connecticut added considerably to her already large following by reaching the semi-finals via four strong victories and one dramatic narrow escape (6-7, 7-6, 6-3) from Andrea Leand in the fourth round. Victorious in her first pro event back in February, 1979 at Toronto (d. Bunge), during the winter of 1980 she worked her way into a consistent groove, reaching the quarters or better in six straight indoor events. A semi-finalist last summer at Eastbourne and among the last 16 at Wimbledon, her loss here last year to Tracy inaugurated a curious pattern that has fully emerged in 1982, specifically, that half her losses this year have been to the tournament's eventual winner. Jaeger in Oakland and Navratilova in Washington, Seattle, Kansas City and Eastbourne. Nonetheless, she has reached five quarter-finals—including Wimbledon—two semis and two finals, winning impressively in Cincinnati over Lee, Russell, Rinaldi, King and Bunge. While amassing other strong singles wins over Jaeger, Jausovec and Shriver, Barbie has combined with Sharon Walsh to win back-to-back doubles crowns at Kansas City and Oakland.

## LESLIE ALLEN

**N**INETEEN months ago, when Leslie Allen triumphed at the Avon Championships of Detroit, she became the first black woman to win a big-time singles since Althea Gibson. That victory, a fourth-round re-

sult at the French Open, plus a third-round finish at Wimbledon all helped elevate Leslie's computer ranking to a career high of 17 this time last year. Though upset by France's Corinne Vanier in the first round at the US Open last September, all in all Leslie's sturdy year-long play netted her an eminently respectable No. 12 USTA ranking at the close of '81. A *magna cum laude* graduate of USC, in 1977, the same year she won the American Tennis Association championship, Leslie helped the Trojans to the national women's team title. An excellent all-round athlete, during the last few years the adoptive New Yorker has developed an increasingly effective doubles game. Playing mostly with Mima Jausovec, thus far in '82 Leslie has shared titles in Detroit and Amelia Island. In singles, she has seen four quarter-finals and one semi—Los Angeles—in pursuit of her second pro crown. En route to those results she posted strong match wins over Fromholtz, Rinaldi, Bunge, Potter and Kathy Jordan. Moreover, before this year Leslie had fought to three career victories over Hana Mandlikova.

## KATHY RINALDI

**T**HE latest in a lengthening tradition of teen sensations extending back through Jaeger, Austin, Shriver and Evert, Kathy Rinaldi hops this time around to improve upon her early exit from last year's Open, when, at age 14, she bowed in the first round 7-5, 3-5, 7-5 to Kathy Horvath, two years her senior. Even so, 1981 was a watershed for the right-handed Floridian. Just ten weeks after turning 14, Kathy became the precocious toast of Paris and the youngest player—male or female—ever to achieve the quarters of the French Championships, thanks to victories over Dianne Fromholtz and Anne Smith. Later, a 6-3, 2-6, 9-7 defeat of Susan-Lee Rolinson earned Kathy the distinction as the youngest ever to win a match at Wimbledon. After turning pro in late July, 1981, Kathy wasted little time in riding her two-handed backhand to her first circuit title, defeating Julie Harrington in Kyoto. Three years ago, when most of her contemporaries were off watching Star Trek reruns, Kathy became the first player to win the USTA 12s Grand Slam, netting her age-group national championships on all four surfaces. More recently, in 1982 Kathy's best weeks have come on clay courts: the quarters at Amelia Island (d. Ruzici), the fourth round at Paris and the final in Berlin. There, only Bettina Bunge stood between Kathy and the German Championship after the youngster had rolled over Marie Pinterova, Rosalyn Fairbank, Mima Jausovec and second-seeded Sylvia Hanika.

# I should have been on tour party to England

**R**ETURNING after a highly successful season with Hattlepool Cricket Club in the North Yorkshire South Durham League, Rakesh Shukla lost little time in getting back to the game on Indian soil. Shukla, who lives with his brother, Krishan Chandra, a public school master, was out practising on the school ground under the expert eye of eldest brother Anand, who wanted to form his own opinion on his kid brother's cricketing progress. Rakesh being the youngest of the three brothers, everyone has lavished much attention on him.

One of the highest paid professionals in the English Leagues, Rakesh had, before taking the plane back home, won for his club the cham-

pionship, taking 61 wickets and scoring over 1,300 runs for which Hattlepool made the rare gesture of presenting its cricket 'pro' the Hattlepool Mail Trophy, normally reserved for its footballers.

For all his long stays away from home, Rakesh Shukla has retained his simple, neat Brahminical lifestyle and manners. A teetotaler, non-smoker and a vegetarian, he is a misfit as a stores executive in a brewery. He has refused to learn even to swear at umpires—something many of our more famous cricketers have, regrettably been quick to emulate.

Shukla has been always described as a leg-spinner, quite ignoring the fact that his batting is equally good,

if not better. Having faced a variety of hostile bowling in the English Leagues, he has been steadily improving in the department and is easily qualified to be called an all-rounder, rather than just a break bowler.

At 31, Test recognition has come rather late. But he is not alone that way. He played in the Board President's Eleven against Asif Iqbal's 1979 Pakistanis in a rain-ruined match at Baroda, taking two wickets for 50 odd runs before rain washed out play at tea on the first day. It was a misfortune for him and had the match gone the full distance, he may have had enough wickets in his bag for not to be ignored any longer.

However, now that recognition has come at last, Shukla appears determined to make the most of his opportunity. That is the impression A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT came away with after meeting him on behalf of Sportsworld on his arrival home from England.

**SPORTSWORLD.** How do you feel now that you have made it into the Test team?

**RAKESH SHUKLA** Thrilled. Absolutely thrilled and happy. I first got the news in England when my brother telephoned me from New Delhi. Excitedly, I rang back my parents to confirm the news, to find out the exact position, whether I was in the squad of 14 or 15, or in the Test 12, or in the actual playing 11 itself. But when other Indians in London rang me up the following day to congratulate me and when I saw it all in the *Daily Telegraph* no more doubts were left.

**SW.** Don't you think it was rather overdue?

**RS.** I should think so. There were occasions in the past when I thought I would be picked. I thought I should have been in the tour party to England, but I was not. I have never felt bitter or discouraged at not being selected in the past. I was in England all the same and enjoyed the season with Hattlepool Cricket Club in the North Yorkshire South Durham League.

**SW.** How exactly are you looking forward to your Test debut against Sri Lanka?

**RS.** This will be just like any other important game for me. I have played important games in the past and as always, I will do my level best.

**SW.** One can see that the selectors are using the matches against the Sri Lankans as an opportunity to experiment with the youngsters for the coming more exacting campaigns in Pakistan and the West Indies.

**RS.** Yes, I am also hopefully looking forward to the Pakistan and West Indies tours.

**SW.** Abdul Qadir's success for Pakistan on their latest tour of England has revived interest in leg-spinners—at least in our sub-continent. What is your own view and how did you think Qadir came to

Rakesh Shukla—at a practice session on his return from England



occupy such an important place in Pakistan's thinking?

**RS:** Yes, I tend to share the view that Qadir's success has, in fact, revived interest in leg-spinners. As for the second part of the question, I believe captain Imran thought highly of Qadir. He has been in English cricket a long time and knows the weaknesses of their batsmen. Also, don't forget Intikhab, the manager. Intikhab himself had a very successful career as a leg-spinner for Surrey. He must have endorsed Imran's thinking. Both Imran and Intikhab know well the English weak points.

**SW:** How would you compare yourself with Qadir?

**RS:** I practise the art of leg-spin quite differently from Qadir. I bowl with a lower trajectory, or tight, making only occasional use of flight. The circumstances in which I have been bowling have called for greater economy. I have seldom been guilty of uneconomical bowling. Qadir's style is different. He tosses the ball higher. He bowls the top spinner and the flipper, both of which I also bowl. But I have an edge when it comes to bowling the wrong 'un, or the googly. I bowl a quicker wrong 'un. He bowls it slow, a flighted googly, which is not perfectly disguised. It can be spotted by any keen student of the game.

**SW:** And your batting? How is it that people have always talked of you only as a leg-spinner?

**RS:** I don't know, really. You can see my batting record. I have been scoring runs and have delivered the goods on most occasions for Delhi or any other team I have played for.

**SW:** But you must be aware of the criticism of your fielding and how people talk about your weight.

**RS:** That was only an excuse. I may not be a panther in the field, but I am quite a safe fielder in the close positions—as safe as any other. I am quite sound and safe and have taken quite a few difficult bat-pad catches. I have seen great fielders who have done great work in the field all day but in the end mull crucial throw-ins or catches. Better to be safe and relaxed rather than flashy and spectacular.

**SW:** You are past 30 years in age already. How long do you think you can last at the Test level? The art of wrist spin is physically more exacting than that of finger spin. The shoulder has a bigger part to play in leg-spin.

**RS:** Quite right. But it is only a vague notion that wrist spinners fade away sooner than the finger spinners. It is not correct. True, there is a bigger load on the wrist spinners' shoulders. This is particularly true when it comes to bowling the wrong 'un. But practitioners of the art of leg-spin are careful to nurse their shoulder. If wrist spinners are careful and fit they can even last 20 years!

**SW:** You talked of fitness. One can



Shukla and his coach discuss a point of importance

see you look trimmer now than ever before. What are your fitness methods? One has your weight problems in mind when asking this.

**RS:** In the first place I never had any fitness problems. I have not sat out matches with pulled muscles or anything. Still, because of my weight I had my crises when I silenced many years ago when I shifted to Delhi from Bihar. I trained hard and shed 20 kilos—coming down from 90 to 70. I have maintained it there since then. As for my fitness training, I'll tell you of the methods I followed in England. I played a lot of squash and did a lot of road running, in addition to the regular exercises and yoga. To achieve swiftness of movement I have also done "circuit training" with a stopwatch timing me. This type of training involves negotiating obstacles, going over or under them as quickly as possible.

**SW:** Do you agree that left-arm spinners have been responsible for the decline of the tribe of leg-spinners in the last decade or so?

**RS:** Captains have been laying great stress on economy. In their plans the left-arm spinner and the seamer have taken precedence over the leg spinner who they think is not as economical. But leg spinners have in fact, proved that they are not all that expensive. In the last Ranji Trophy final, for example, my 60 odd overs cost less than three runs each—

about 2.5 in fact and I was more economical than even left-arm Alan Under.

**SW:** How did you get into the leg-spin business at a time when its stock was low?

**RS:** My brother Anand's influence really. I was a medium-pacer as a schoolboy at Allahabad before I came under his attention. Ours in fact is a family of leg spinners. My other brother K C Shukla is also a leg spinner. My nephew—Anand's son—has also taken to leg spin.

**SW:** People do not tend to take English League cricket too seriously. As one who has been in it for five seasons what do you say to that?

**RS:** English League cricket is serious, challenging business. It is not a picnic. Cricketers of the standing of Desmond Haynes (West Indies), Lance Cairns (New Zealand) and Albert Padmore (West Indies) were in rival clubs. Haynes, a top flight opening batsman, once found it hard to come by runs against amateur club bowlers. So it is quite serious. Professionals are expected to show results and to do that you have to be serious.

**SW:** Has your selection as a Test player increased your professional worth in the League?

**RS:** That's not the way it is. It is the results that matter—Test player or not.





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# Hanut Singh—a living legend

**T**HE greatest ever Indian player Ranjit Singhji of polo. Master tactician. Incomparable leader. These are the ways Rao Raja Hanut Singh of Jodhpur is described by polo veterans of India and abroad. "One of the greatest players ever produced," commented John Board Jack Gannon considered him "an absolute artiste." Major Kuldeep Garcha, member of the present Indian team that recently went abroad said, "The first question we were asked was about Hanut. 'Everyone respects him. In fact, we got a terrific reception there only because of him'."

This is not surprising if you measure Hanut's feats for a moment. At 21, he was a nine-goal player and he remained one till he was 39. He played actively till 68, holding a 5 goal rating which, incidentally, is the handicap of India's most accomplished players at present. Moreover, he played and coached polo players all over the world and groomed a number of world beaters.

To attain this high level of excellence Hanut used to put in endless hours of intensive and wearisome practice every day. Under the tutelage of his father Sir Pratap, Regent of Jodhpur, Hanut first learnt how to swing a mallet. And from a very early age he developed an abiding love for horses. He used to ride like an expert ("sits beautifully and rides like the wind," says an old article).

There is the story of a polo player, proud of his pony, who asked Hanut for his expert opinion on the horse. He rode it, but said nothing. When the owner persisted Hanut replied cryptically "Shoot it tomorrow morning." A 86 year old horse trainer, Khet Singh, who now looks after the polo ponies of the Maharaja of Jaipur, recalls "Rao Raja Sahib knew horses. He would get up at four every morning to personally supervise their feeding and training."

Hanut owned more than 40 ponies which were categorised according to merit and split into strings. Ordinary horses were used for practice while the quality ones—thoroughbreds like firefly, Snap, Zigzag—were kept in reserve for important games. Remembers Ramdhan, Hanut's syce, "He loved his horses. If we were careless with them he would hit us with his stick. But he was big-hearted, we were often rewarded too."

Besides horses, Hanut was equally meticulous about other polo equipment. His sticks were whippy, 53

inches with a 6½ to 7 ounce head, and were always made by one Keshu—who later built up a cinema hall and named it Polo Victory. Hanut popularised the "Jodhpuri" breeches, and helped innovate the polo boot—flapless and big-heeled. Mangal Singh, his batman, always had things in order. Yet Hanut religiously checked all gear.

Everyday Hanut would play 15-17 chukkars and to further polish his unerring shots, spend substantial amount of time on the wooden horse hitting balls to a predetermined spot. At other times he would aim shots at the goal posts from different

angles. He used to play the entire day in Jodhpur, travel through the night in a car to Jaipur—300 kms away—practise there and return the following day to Jodhpur in time for polo again.

Such devotion and single-mindedness of purpose quickly made Hanut a champion player. His first major triumph came in 1921 when the Jodhpuri team clashed with Patiala for the Rutlam Cup. In this game 'izzat' more than anything else was at stake and in front of the Prince of Wales, the Viceroy and Lady Reading hundreds of princes and more than 1,00,000 cheering spectators Jodhpuri pipped Patiala 6-5.

Writing in *The Times*, London, Sir Percy Robinson described this 'Homeric battle'. Hanut scored a miraculous goal but Patiala led by a goal in the 1st chukka. The roar of voices was like summer thunder, important Major Generals and personages stood up waving hats and shouting themselves hoarse. The women screamed. Only Sir Percy sat immovable even in the last dramatic minute when Jodhpuri scored the goal. The horn sounded, the old man stood up, tears pouring down his cheeks.

Many more triumphs followed. In 1931, Hanut, Abheev Singh, Amar Singh (Master of the Horses) and the best polo ponies were "given" as 'dowry' by Maharaja Umaid Singh to the Jaipur Maharaja when he married a Jodhpur princess. Jodhpur never played again, but the Jaipur team swept everything in the world between 1930-39. Brain behind these successes was, of course, Hanut.

What made him such a polo giant? Well, many things—skill, discipline, devotion, and plenty of money. Commented one observer "In a game he was always superbly mounted and Rao Raja Sahib never had to bother about tax returns."

"Basically," said Thakur Kishan Singh who toured with Hanut, "He was a superb player, very accurate and had amazing ball control. Rarely did he make mistakes and his striking was incredibly effortless." Commented Garcha "Hanut's brain was tremendous, he was a master tactician and had a phenomenal capacity to control the game."

To Hanut polo was the most important thing in life. Before a tournament he would prepare meticulously by horses, train them, study his opponents, even their ponies. Said



A 1926 photograph of the maestro

Krishan "He knew every minute detail. He gave us detailed instructions, to the extent that we were told which pony to play with in a particular chukker. No wonder when the English team was to tour the United States, Lord Cowdrey, Birmingham's President, consented to sanction money only on condition that Hanut accompanied the team.

Actually, even in those days Hanut's attitude was absolutely 'professional'. Pudo he felt must always be played to a pattern. It is a team game, he used to tell the players. Says Brian, Hanut's son, who played a great deal with him: "Father stressed the team game aspect and was intolerant if someone disregarded this. After every game there was a team meeting. He always wanted to know why you had won or lost."

During a game Hanut was a fierce competitor. It's said that he played with hot blood and a cool head. In a game he neither gave or asked for a quarter. Elaborates Brian: "He played to win. It was as simple as that. Playing with father was no fun. It was business. Pudo was his profession, it was his life." During a match he was constantly uttering shouting instructions and yelling rebukes. "Bloody fellow wake up, he'd say," recalls Krishan.

Occasionally Hanut would do more than merely yell. "Quick, no! Had tempered—he was. If you messed a sitter, he'd swipe you with his stick



*Hanut Singh sitting in his room*

and say Hanut's son can't do this," reminisces Brian. Added another polo fan: "The Jodhpur boys played rough. They were desperate to win. If someone in their team made mistakes they would forget about the ball and run after him!"

Hanut's commitment to pudo was so complete that he subjected even his private life to stringent discipline. Never fond of alcohol, he drank only an occasional whisky

soda on the customary swig of champagne from the winner's cup. He slept early and was known to leave parties midway, if a game was on the following day. Moreover, he was very punctual.

Says Brian: "Father was a very strict man. Tolerated no nonsense. Not a great talker, whenever he spoke it was something serious. It was never frivolous. For example, he would never read love stories." Only thing he indulged in was good clothes. Extremely fastidious, he was always immaculately dressed—mostly Savile Row—and the father once voted him one of the best dressed men in London.

Hanut's best years as a player were between the Wars. His form waned gradually, but his reputation as a master never dimmed as Hanut always had a knack for picking and coaching promising youngsters. Dickie Maubatten received his first polo lesson in Jodhpur from him and greats like Hipwood, Sinclair Hill, Patrick Campbell, Bob Skeene, Eduardo Moore—all 9 or 10 goal players—were groomed by Hanut.

His ability to spot talent was amazing. Watching Tonario play, a 3 goal player, Hanut correctly predicted that he would eventually merit a 10 goal rating. For his own Ratanada team Hanut chose youngsters and still succeeded in winning the coveted Cowdrey Park Cup two years running.

Hanut Singh's has really been a glorious innings. Learnt riding at 5 and served in the first war when only 14—his father, Sri Pratap, thought a Rajput's son is never too young to fight. "He" wrote Douglas Gray, "symbolises all that is best about the galloping game." Surely, if polo is the game of kings, Hanut Singh was its most illustrious monarch.

AMRIT MATHUR

## The game is dead now

**R**ECENTLY this writer met the Railing Hanut at his home, adjacent to which his son Hari is building a 56-room centrally air conditioned hotel. He was sitting in a room full of polo pictures, the cupboards crammed with trophies won in a career spanning 56 years. Outside stood, forlorn, the wooden horse used by the great player to perfect his polo skills. Hanut spoke on various subjects in a soft voice often pausing to overcome the strain.

### Excerpts

#### On Polo's decline in India:

India gave the game to the world, but now it is dead. All the factors that made polo grow here have gone. The Maharajas, the British cavalry, the Indian cavalry, the horse trainers. There are very few teams now and the boys in the army keep playing among themselves. You don't improve unless you play with better players. Nowadays there are no good players to look up to.

#### On the importance of the horse in polo:

It's the all-important factor

The pony must gallop, stop suddenly and change directions. Without a well-trained pony a player is handicapped. If you don't reach the ball how do you hit it?

#### On Argentina's success:

There are more horses than trees in Argentina. The people there take a keen interest in breeding horses. They are good riders and they start playing at a very early age, even when in school.

#### On his achievements:

My greatest achievement was becoming a 9-goal player at 21 and holding that rating for about 20 years. In 1921, we beat Patiala in the presence of the Prince of Wales and fulfilled my father's dream. We were the underdogs as before this game Patiala were virtually unbeatable. They were a great side, but we played better. They were a bit unsporting also: Chanda Singh sat on the sidelines crying and didn't come to receive the runners-up trophy.

In England, I chose three youngsters to play with me, but still won the Gold Cup twice in succession.

# COUNT DOWN 8

**A**NY doubts there might have been about the brand of the balls to be used in the Asian Games soccer tournament were dispelled by a telex message from the International Football Federation (FIFA) to the New Delhi organisers after the World Cup in Spain. It will be Tango manufactured by the West German firm of Adidas.

Mikasa of Japan with whom the organisers had originally entered into an agreement for the supply of the footballs, will, however, provide the balls for the water polo, volleyball, basketball and handball tournaments. The contract provides for the free supply of 500 balls for each of the disciplines plus 60,000 dollars as royalty.

The objection to the Mikasa soccer balls came from the Malaysian dominated Asian Football Confederation. Many an eyebrow was raised because Mikasa, like Adidas, is also on FIFA's approved list. How could an affiliate question the choice of a ball which had the approval of the world body? But after certain developments at Madrid, where top Indian football officials were also present, the matter was settled in favour of the German firm's product. According to FIFA's message to Pragati Maidan, they (FIFA) will themselves supply the Tango balls free of charge.

This has left the organisers and Mikasa with no choice, for the agreement between them — at least as far as soccer went — was subject to the final approval of FIFA who have chosen Tango also for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The Indian team have been training with Mikasa balls and there are still over 200 brand new ones left in the Asian stores.

Tango or Mikasa, what difference does it make? There are two schools of thought. According to one, the difference is largely in the mind, or psychological. The other holds that the German ball is, without doubt, much the superior, meeting the most rigorous standards including a computer test. The AFC officials are of the view that the Mikasa ball is not quite suitable because of its higher bounce. Incidentally, the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games Football Tournament was played with Japanese Tachikara balls.

As for the lay Indian football fan, right now in low spirits because of the national team's disappointing performance in the Merdeka Cup — he regards the hair splitting over the brand of the ball with cynical amusement. No change of brand will help our wayward forwards keep

If the Indian soccer fan is worried about the lack of success of his team, his counterpart across the western fence seems to be without any hope at all. There was a terse announcement from Kuala Lumpur that Pakistan had withdrawn from the Merdeka Tournament at the last moment forcing the organisers to readjust the groupings. Now however, the real reason for the withdrawal is known.

According to the West German coach currently supervising the training of the Pakistan team, its standard was not up to the mark. In his expert opinion the team would have cut a sorry figure at Kuala Lumpur. It was on his advice that the Pakistan Football Federation pulled the team out at the eleventh hour. As in India in large parts of Pakistan also it is soccer that is the number one spectator sport

— not hockey. Even as the last Asia Cup Hockey Tournament was on at Karachi, a football match in the same city drew a larger crowd.

It is sad to read a Pakistan news agency writer advise in a report that "it is of no use to send the team to the ninth Asian Games where almost all leading teams from Asian countries will be taking part". He goes on to exhort the Pakistan Football Federation to strive to raise the standard of the game within the country by drawing up long term training cum coaching programmes at various levels so that a national team of true representative standard could emerge.

With the live telecasting of the World Cup matches the interest in the game has immensely increased and many Pakistani youngsters are seen playing football in the streets. It is now up to the Pakistan Football Federation to utilise this opportunity and make such plans which could help raise the standard of the game," the writer says in conclusion.

However well meaning the writer may be, it will come as a great disappointment to Indian soccer crowds who are buying up tickets as fast as they are put up for sale, if the Pakistan football Federation were to follow his advice and withdraw their team from the Asian Games also. It is a long time since a Pakistan soccer team played in Delhi.



DELHI 1982



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## Regional round-up

### PUNE

#### Raj Singh's fight for life

**S**UBEDAR Raj Singh, an instructor in the Army Ordnance Corps (Secunderabad) is without doubt one of the best javelin throwers India has ever produced. But it is indeed, sad and pathetic to find this cheerful man in bed fighting a grim battle against terminal cancer at the Military Command Hospital, Pune.

In February this year Raj Singh had a malignant tumour on his left hip which was operated upon immediately and after three months' treatment at the Malignant Diseases Centre he was discharged, not only to find himself in bed once again this August with the same killer disease having dangerously spread to his lungs.

Before going to see him, this correspondent prepared himself to meet a defeated man, but the lanky Sikh, who donned India and Services colours in his brilliant career, never seemed to have given up hope.

Born on May 8, 1944, in Mauran Village of Singur District, Punjab, the young Raj Singh matriculated from the Mauran Government Middle School where he took to athletics at an early age. Of all the events he liked javelin throw the most. He joined the Army in 1963 and soon made it to the Services team for the Nationals.

Raj Singh's most memorable moment came in the year 1967 at the Bangalore Nationals when he stood first in the javelin throw event way ahead of his rivals. In his long career he was crowned national champion a record nine times and got silver and bronze medals on several occasions. He represented Services from 1965 to 1981.

After his brilliant performances at the Nationals, the selectors could not ignore him and in 1970 he was included in the Indian team which took on a visiting West German side. Raj finished third in two of the Test matches. Immediately afterwards he went on a tour of Russia. At Moscow and Odessa where some meets were held he stood ninth and as Raj humbly put it "The Russian grounds and equipment confused the Indians considerably and our spikes were of no use on the modern tartan tracks. Moreover, the foreign competitors were of a very high standard."

Raj Singh created history when in the Asian trials in 1973 at Patiala he flung the spear to a record distance of 70.18 mts which till today has not been surpassed by any Indian. But even after such a splendid perform-

ance, disappointment was still in store for him. In spite of a promise that he would be taken on the tour of Philippines for the Asian Athletic Meets, internal politics among the officials stood in his way and an enthusiastic Raj Singh was told at a New Delhi guest house, just one day before departure, that Gopal Kidyoor (Maharashtra), a younger athlete, was being preferred to him. The NIS authorities in Patiala then told a depressed Raj that he was 30 and too old.

Fortunately for him Services never dropped him and he continued to shine at the Nationals. When the Sri Lanka team came in 1976 for four athletic tests, Raj Singh volunteered to take part in both javelin and shot putt events and crowned himself with glory finishing first in all the



four 'tests' in both the events. But a modest Raj would tell you today "That was possible because the Lankans were no good and it was a cake walk for me."

What impressed me most about the Subedar was the typical army bravery that he exhibited in his fight for life. Doctors attending on him told this correspondent that as the cancer had spread to his lungs, chances of survival are a hundred to one against him. Raj Singh is facing his misfortune like a fearless warrior and is still very confident that "If I die, I will die on the playground and nowhere else. I am not worried about myself, but I am concerned about the future of my family." Tears welled up in his eyes for the first time during the interview when he said this. Raj

Singh has his wife and two children, a daughter Chiddarpal (14) and son Jagtar (11) who are now being looked after by Major Joginder Singh, former Asian Gold Medalist, at Secunderabad. It has also been reported that coaches, athletes and trainees of the NIS (National Institute of Sports) Patiala have joined hands to give financial aid to the ailing sportsman. Many of them have appealed to the former international star Eddie Sequiera of Bombay to help them collect funds for the aid of Raj Singh and his family.

RAHUL CHANDAWARKAR

### BANGALORE

#### Joy ride

**I**T was mud, sweat and joy for Vikram Kapoor, among the two-wheelers and O P Gupta among the four-wheelers—the deserving winners of the Maiden Rally, organised by the newly formed Indian Automotive Sports Club. The KF-September 300 Motor Rally held last Sunday was a thumping success, attracting as many as 42 two-wheelers and 29 four-wheelers.

O P Gupta and team from Mysore, rode into the top position with just 828 penalty points, followed by K I Joseph with 1013 penalty points. The first place among the two-wheelers went to debutant Vikram Singh a businessman by profession and S Banappa who tallied 1,121 penalty points. They were followed by Ravi Joothari (1137 points) and M Ramesh (1346 points) in the second and third positions respectively.

Gautam Kadam and B M Ravi, winners of the Karnataka 1000 were not so lucky this time. Their vehicles played truant and Gautam's mobike snapped after covering just 65 of the prescribed 273 kms. Shant Prasad and Ramesh who rode in third proved to be as capable a pair of mechanics as drivers. They rode nearly 200 kms of the route by manually operating the accelerator, as the cable had slipped out. An interesting but very inconveniencing sidelight, was that there was a private car which rode alongside the participants, advising them to take the wrong turning all the time.

There was an all-woman team of Mrs Veena Shivaram and Tanu Merchant in the two-wheelers section, who completed the rally despite being nearly thrown off their vehicle, at one stage. Another lady in the fray was Mrs Vasavi Vickram, acting as navigator for the first time, for her husband.

The rally went off smoothly and without any hitch, thanks to the

meticulous planning undertaken by Ravi Gupta, president of IASC, and his team of co-winners.

## Hot-headed hockey

**S**T. JOSEPH'S Arts and Science College, proved they were the best in the city collegiate circles when they won the prestigious Major C.R. Ponappa Memorial inter-collegiate hockey trophy, by defeating St. John's Medical College by a solitary goal.

St. John's the defending champions did not have a striker worth the name in their ranks and hence all their good work came to nought. The black spot on the tournament was the manhandling of umpire Gupta by the Canvey College team during the keen semi-final match between that college and St. John's Medical College. Umpire Krishnamurthy's decision in awarding a goal in the tie-breaker, led to a protest walk out by the Canvey team. The St. John's team was then declared winners 5-6. The Canvey side then came back and attacked umpire Gupta with their hockey sticks, by the former luckily escaped unhurt.

Later, the executive committee of the Karnataka State Hockey Association decided to debar the Canvey College team from competing in any of its tournaments for a period of two years. It also decided to debar M.A. Srinivas the main cause for the uproar for a similar period.

## Committee's sparring contest

**T**HIS storm created over the removal of P. S. B. Naidu from the post of "honorary secretary" of the Karnataka Amateur Boxing Association in April has now blown over and calm has been restored with the reinstatement of Naidu as secretary.

President Nadasinga Rao had removed Naidu, on a charge that the latter had illegally opened a separate account and had spent Rs 2,000 out of the Rs 3,000 given by the Sports Directorate. Mr. Naidu had explained that since he got no co-operation from the treasurer, he had to do so in order to finance the team. The President has accepted Mr. Naidu's explanation and has revoked the suspension order.

SHANTI MOHANRANGAM

## MADRAS

## Tamil Nadu juniors to the fore

**L**ITTLE seems to be going right for the senior cricketers of the State but the Tamil Nadu juniors gave a

fine performance in defeating Karnataka by four wickets in their Inter Association Cricket tie for the P. Ramachandrarao Trophy. These matches are important in that a good performance here could well see a player get into the State squad for the Ranji Trophy matches. And one player who has already done enough to warrant selection is schoolboy, W. V. Raman. He has been having a splendid league season so far and in this match took six wickets for 56 runs with his left arm spinners in the Karnataka second innings. Karnataka scored 110 and 281 and Tamil Nadu made 219 and 174 for six. A fine century by Nandan for Karnataka was in vain.

## Hari, yet again

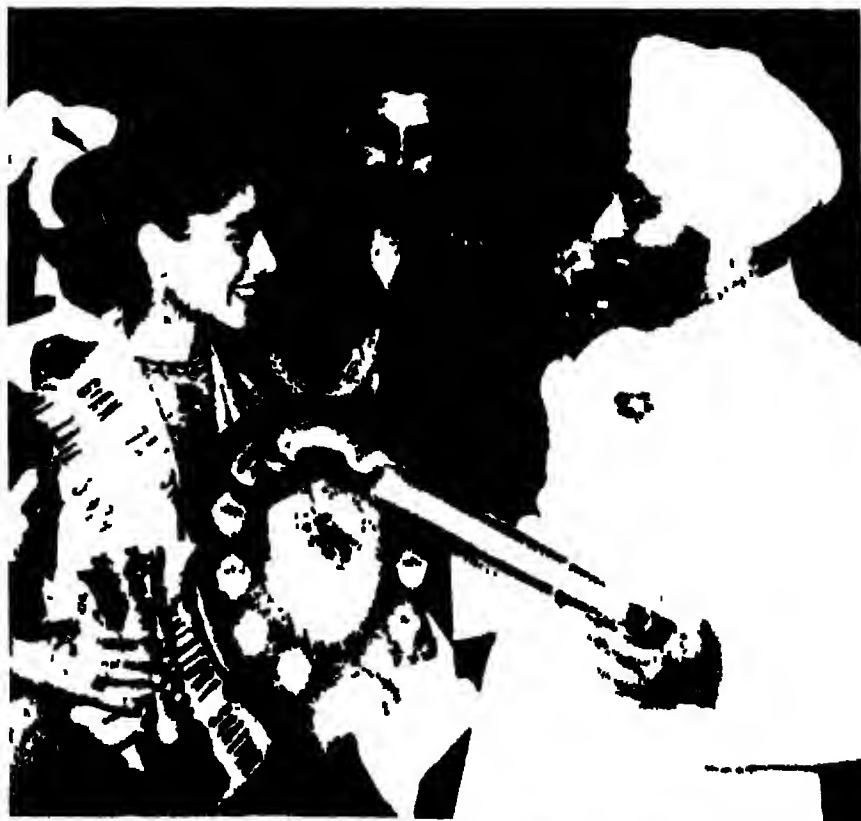
**F**ORMER international R. Hari is in fine form this season and has won a good number of titles both in the city and elsewhere in the country. He added one more to his haul in bag when he won the Acromotion General's Office Recreation Club table tennis tournament by beating Ravi Venkatesh in the final. He however, had to give off a stiff challenge before winning 21-19, 21-16, 19-21, 17-21, 21-12. Hari finished the protracted tussle with a flourish taking nine points in a row in the decider from 12-12 to win the match.

## Keen Wills Open

**T**he Wills Open Golf Championship was held at the Gandhi Golf Link from Sept 9 to 12. Before Rothas Singh, the 26-year-old Delhi professional won the title—and the Rs 3000 First Prize along with it—the lead changed hands so rapidly at the end of every day that the finish was very much in suspense almost till the last hole.

It looked like Pilling, after a sluggish start on the opening day, was slowly coming into his own. But he lapsed into errors on the penultimate day. He was even sitting pretty after eleven holes on this day but he played badly on the homeward hooves. Rothas, with his unspectacular but steady golf, worked his way up and took over the lead. At the end of the third day, he had an aggregate of 720 while Pilling was one stroke behind. Sadanand, Basabala and Ram Dayal of Delhi were jointly in third place with 224. But everything on the final day pointed to a shootout between Pilling and Rothas.

The keen battle, expectedly, looked forward to, never came about. On the final day, Rothas was completely in command. In so poor touch was Pilling that even when Rothas faltered—as he did on the seventh and eighth holes—he still remained ahead. Despite the intense pressure and heat, Rothas fought



**SPEED AND ARTISTRY** President Giani Zail Singh congratulates Mrs. Jagdeep Bains who bagged the double title of Speed and Artistic Queen at the Giani Zail Singh Open Shooting Tournament held in Chandigarh.

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will only be seen in plains...



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gamely on and brought off some fine play on two bunkers on the 12th and 14th holes, which somewhat offset his indifferent form earlier. Pilling's miserable showing however continued and he shot a live over par 77. Rothas on the other hand, had a steady course in the four rounds—74, 72, 74 and 73—and the professional from the Delhi Golf Club clearly deserved his triumph. His total aggregate of 293 was a tribute to steady, consistent golf. Pilling, on 298 slid to third position while the runner-up place was taken by Sadanand who had an impressive final round of 73 to finish with 297—four strokes behind the champion.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

## TRIVANDRUM

### MLA's kick and foul?

KERALA MLAs are very sporting whether they play on the ground or shout in the Assembly. The honorable members, like they often ignore the Speaker's repeated calls for order inside the Assembly, also ignored the referee's whistle on the field. They kicked, headed and often tailed in their bid to drive home the ball. The football match, led by RSP's K Pankajakshan and the IUML MLA Koiambayil Ahmed Hai was played at the University Stadium, Trivandrum in connection with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Kerala Assembly. The match ended 2-1 in favour of Mr Pankajakshan's Eleven and rightly so, for he is the president of Kerala Sports Council.

### Money mystery!

THE 38th Santosh Trophy Football Tournament was held at Trichur in January last. Ten months have since gone by. But the accounts connected with it have not yet been finalised and furnished. The real cause of the delay remains a mystery and the auditors and the organisers accuse each other for the inordinate delay. Meanwhile, the Trichur Municipal Council protested against the undue delay in bringing out the corrected accounts. A resolution to this effect has been unanimously passed by the Council in its last meeting held recently. The Municipality has spent Rs 23 lakhs for flood lighting the stadium. There were also allegations from certain quarters that the delay in presenting the accounts was due to the misappropriation of funds.

It must be recalled here that when the Santosh Trophy was conducted at Calicut a couple of years back, misappropriation of funds and discrepancy in vouchers to the tune of several lakhs of rupees were de-

tected but all the accusations and public demand for an enquiry into the matter finally fizzled out due to the pressure and involvement of prominent politicians and their patrons. Mr T. O. Abdulla was the president of Kerala Football Association at that time.

Doubts have risen here also whether the same fate will fall upon the accounts of the Trichur Championship too. It is time for the AIFF and the Government to enquire into the swindling of funds. The authorities sitting at the top should enquire into the allegation, including the "Calicut Santosh Scandal" and find a suitable solution to the malady. This is the need of the hour to save our sports.

M. P. SURFISI

## CALCUTTA

### Same old game

THE Indian Football Association has its own style of functioning. Or should it be said that the association takes decisions based on whims rather adhering to good counsel. When the Bengal junior team regained the prestigious D. B. C. Roy Trophy at Pondicherry the players and their coach Dulal Bhattacharjee were applauded by the H. A. for the achievement.

Dulal Bhattacharjee is an NIS Bangalore diploma holder and was a former sub-junior, junior and senior assistant coach. So there is hardly any doubt about his ability. And the triumphant return from Pondicherry makes him the automatic choice as coach of the same team which went to Delhi to participate in the Trial Games.

The normal procedure of appointing a coach for a tournament is a decision taken by the H. A. governing body. Strange though it might seem the team left Calcutta accompanied by coach Swarn Chosh and not Dulal Bhattacharjee. And that too without the governing body's consent. It is learnt how did this occur and what was the motive behind this?

What was more surprising was that the coaching committee comprising Sanku Mitra, Subhas Saha, veteran Achyut Banerjee and Pasupati Bhattacharjee did not know about the strange nomination. They had already taken for granted that Dulal Bhattacharjee would make the trip to Delhi. The coaching panel has expressed their displeasure and said that this is nothing new. Such things have happened before. In disgust Pasupati Bhattacharjee tendered his resignation but some H. A. officials pleaded to him to withdraw his resignation which Mr Bhattacharjee did.

SUBHASH SARKAR

## Calcutta City Old Boys LMOB win sans competition

THIS was the 50th year the All India and South Asia rugby tournament was being played for. The event is held alternately in Bombay and Calcutta and 1982 was the turn of the 'City of Palaces' to play host to the teams taking part.

Hosts Calcutta Cricket and Football Club sporting smart red-and-white jerseys kicked off with a none to confident win against another Calcutta team, City Old Rugger.

Day two was quite different. First, a young and enthusiastic LMOB Tigers outran the weighty Maharashtra State Police, one of the top Bombay teams. Worse was yet to come for the visitors. The second seeds Bombay Gymkhana lost to Calcutta Police in a scrappy encounter.

Bombay Gymkhana had earlier won the Bombay Cup, but many of their good players decided not to make the trip to Calcutta. It is learnt from reliable sources that some of the prominent players had boycotted the Bombay Gymkhana touring party because Wilson College who the organisers have banned in Bombay had been invited to play in Calcutta.

But whatever their reasons, the "boycotters" should have shown themselves good teammen and come to Calcutta. Rugby is already a dying sport and blowing up such issues do not help the sport in anyway. Nevertheless, Leybourne Callaghan, the veteran team manager deserves congratulating for keeping the Bombay Gymkhana flag flying.

Coming back to the tournament proper, La Martiniere Old Boys weaved their artistic way into the semi-finals by notching up a massive 62-4 win over the hosts.

In the first of the semi-finals which for all practical purposes was the final, was the encounter between LMOB and the Armenians. The 'Old Boys' were never really pushed and won 19-0. The second semi-final was a cliff-hanger. The LMOB Tigers and Calcutta Police scored two penalties a piece for the score to read 6-6 at the end of normal playing time. In sudden death F. Fernandez scored a try and the Tigers had to pinch themselves to believe they were in the final.

Rugby has its close knit band of regular fans in the city and certainly deserves under publicity and a greater following. The organisers would have done well to hold a Press conference before the commencement of the tournament. The fourth state can certainly help to promote rugby in India. Nevertheless, all kudos to Nada Osman, Dick Thomas, Harry Naidu and their other organisers for a well run competition.

P. P. S. K. S. K.

## Follow-on: compulsory or optional?

In and around 1835, the 'no option' clause regarding follow-on made it compulsory for a side to bat again if they were 100 or more runs behind in the first innings.

Despite differences of opinion among players and officials and a number of controversies, the law existed for about 20 years. Then, strangely, the follow-on limit was further reduced from 100 to 80 runs. There was no justifiable explanation for reducing the limit. The result was quite frequently teams conceded runs deliberately to prevent the other side from following on. This was done to avoid batting last (fourth innings on the worn out pitch).

Mr Gerald Brodribb, a noted historian, says "Hall's XI had scored 118 for nine in reply to Shaw's Australian XI's total of 220. As a draw seemed likely, Shaw's men were anxious that Shaw's side should add at least another 23 runs and so avoid the follow-on as they did not wish to field again. They bowled and fielded carelessly to the last two batsmen (who also did not wish to have to field again). But the slackness he came so obvious that Peate the last batsman in, decided to thwart them by deliberately knocking his wicket down. A dispute naturally arose as to whether Peate could be out striking his wicket after the ball had passed it. After 40 minutes' of absurd argument, Peate was

allowed to be out and so Shaw's XI had to field out the rest of play."

Teams and team officials made a mockery of this foolish law. Incidents—some bordering on unsportsmanship—continued to take place causing irritation and reducing the game to a farce. The authorities eventually woke up and realised that the law needed modification. After prolonged deliberations, a provisional alternative was tried out in Australia during the 1893/94 season. The follow-on was made optional. The MCC, which met in 1894, however, did not approve of the alteration, but it agreed to raise the limit from 80 to 120 runs.

But it did not make any difference. Teams continued to take advantage of the absurdity of the 'no option' follow-on law

and in a State match in Australia (1896/97) Hugh Trumble delivered no fewer than eight no-balls to prevent South Australia from following on.

The incident continued to occur even when the MCC eventually passed a resolution in 1900 making the follow-on optional as also raising the limit from 120 to 150 runs. Since then there was no modification until May 1922 when the Australian Cricket Board, of their own accord, raised the limit of follow-on from 150 to 200 runs.

One of the most remarkable instances of follow-on took place in 1946 when the Indian XI scored 376 for six declared and Glamorgan replied with 149. Glamorgan followed on immediately. What was remarkable was that the Glamorgan skipper asked the last two batsmen to open the

second innings. And as luck would have it, Judge got a 'pair'. Twice he was howled by Sarwat on two successive balls. Judge came in to bat at number 11 and then at number 1.

After many amendments the present follow-on law reads "In a two innings match, the side which bats first and leads by 200 runs in a match of five days or more, by 150 runs in a three-day or four-day match, by 100 runs in a two-day match or by 75 runs in a one-day match, shall have the option of requiring the other side to follow their innings."

"If no play takes place on the first day of a match of two or more days' duration, the law will be operative in accordance with the number of days' play remaining from the actual start of the match."

Here are some problems

**Q.** The fielding side continues to indulge in unfair tactics. What should the umpire do?

**A.** Law 42 'unfair play' (sub-clause 3) says "The umpires shall intervene with out appeal by calling and signalling 'dead ball' in the case of unfair play, but should not otherwise interfere with the progress of the game except as required to do so by the laws."

**Q.** The bowler or fielder keeps trying to lift the seam. What should the umpire do?

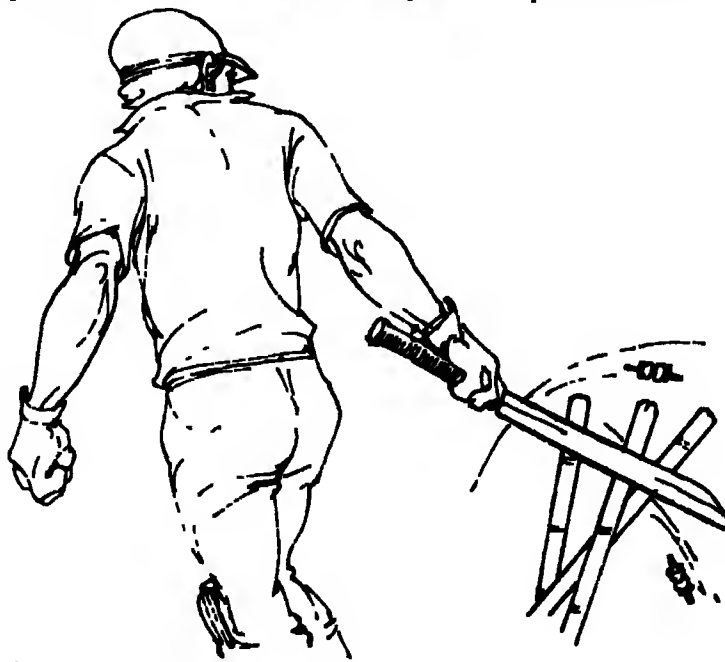
**A.** Lifting of seam is forbidden. The umpire should change the ball and take one of similar condition.

**Q.** Can any member of the fielding side polish the ball?

**A.** The law, as amended, says that any member of the fielding side may polish the ball provided that such polishing wastes no time and that no artificial substance is used.

**Q.** A close-in fielder keeps cat-calling or trying to talk to another close-in fielder, while the batsman is concentrating before facing the ball. Can the batsman object and how will the umpire prevent the concerned fielder from causing such disturbance?

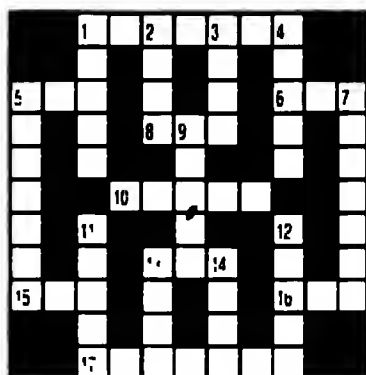
**A.** Even without an objection by the batsman, the umpire, under the latest laws, is justified in intervening and shall call and signal "dead ball" if, in his opinion, any player of the fielding side disturbs the striker, while he is receiving a ball.



# Crossword

MUDAR

166



## ACROSS

- 1 Prolific golf writer has something to share with the missing link man (1 6)
- 5 This Taylor went as a rebel to South Africa earlier (3)
- 6 That which helps the bowlers in many Test centres at the start or play (3)
- 8 The result when each side in cricket finishes with the same score (3)
- 10 Sports writer who begins with an iron staff (5)
- 13 This Maskell was recently awarded an OBE for his service to tennis (3)
- 15 What a punter takes before a race (3)
- 16 What a Sugar Robinson and a Sugar Leonard also possess (3)
- 17 Cricketer Barrington's first name (7)

## DOWN

- 1 The googly as it is called in Australia (5)
- 2 Seasoned veteran of Spanish hockey begins with the ante meridian (4)
- 3 An unreachable cricket delivery (4)
- 4 What cricketer Pullar of England was affectionately called (5)
- 5 The most unpunctual cricket stroke? (4 3)
- 7 The football centre in England begins with a collective word (7)
- 9 Place of origin of kho-kho (5)
- 11 A cricketer Patel quite popular in England though not Brijesh (5)
- 12 Month in which the All England Badminton is held has something to do with striding ahead (5)
- 13 Association footballer for Everton and England who made five international appearances in 1927 (4)
- 14 A game of pins (4)

Excellent 20-18, Good 17-15,  
Fair 14-12

# Question box

Shashikant Rungta, Calcutta

Q After the 'toss' is made by the two captains, who is supposed to pick up the coin from the ground?

A Since the toss is made by the homeside captain with his own coin he himself will have to pick up the coin irrespective of whether he loses or wins it

Nadeem Shaikh, New Jalna

Q Please give me the Test record of Imran Khan

A He has played in 40 Tests 65 innings, eight times not out 1542 runs with 123 as his highest score 27.05 as his average, one century five fifties four ducks, 11 catches, 10,587 balls 358 maiden overs 4587 runs conceded, 179 wickets 25.62 as his average 12 times with five or more wickets in an innings and twice with ten or more in a match and has captained Pakistan thrice

Master Niku, Babu, Tina, Calcutta

Q What is G. R. Vishwanath's date of birth?

A He was born on 12 February 1959 Bisweshwar Mohanty, Jagatsinghpur

Q When and where did G. R. Vishwanath and Zaheer Abbas make their Test debuts?

A G. R. Vishwanath made his Test debut in the Test against Australia at Kanpur in 1969-70 while Zaheer Abbas entered the Test arena for Pakistan in their first Test against New Zealand at Karachi in 1969-70

Sunil Kumar Das Adhikary, Barua

Q What are the dates of birth of James Lillywhite (England) D. W. Gregory of Australia O. P. Dunnell of South Africa R. K. Nunes of West Indies, T. C. Lowry of New Zealand, C. K. Nayudu of India and A. H. Kardar of Pakistan?

A James Lillywhite was born on 23 February, 1942 D. W. Gregory on April 1845, O. P. Dunnell on 15 July 1856 R. K. Nunes on 7 June 1894, T. C. Lowry on 17 February, 1898, C. K. Nayudu on 31 October 1895 and A. H. Kardar on 17 January 1925

## SOLUTION 165



Babul Dasgupta Hailong, Assam

Q Who has scored the maximum number of fours in an innings of a Test?

A As many as 52 in his score of 310 not out were hit by J. H. Edrich of England in the third Test against New Zealand at Leeds in 1965

N. G. Chandak, Solapur

Q What are the world record partnerships for each wicket?

A For the first wicket—413 by V. Man- kad and P. Roy of India against New Zealand at Madras in 1955-56 Second Wicket 451 by W. H. Ponsford and D. G. Bradman of Australia versus Eng- land at The Oval in 1934 Third wicket— 370 by W. J. Edrich and D. C. S. Compton of England versus South Afri- ca at Lord's 1947 Fourth wicket—411 by P. B. H. May and M. C. Cowdrey of England versus the West Indies at Birmingham in 1957 Fifth wicket—405 by S. G. Barnes and D. G. Bradman of Australia against England at Sydney 1946-47 Sixth wicket—346 by J. H. Fingleton and D. G. Bradman of Austra- lia versus England at Melbourne 1936- 37 Seventh wicket—347 by D. Atkinson and C. Depeiza of West Indies against Australia at Bridgetown 1954-55 Eighth wicket—246 by L. E. G. Ames and G. O. Allen for England off New Zealand at Lord's 1931 Ninth wicket— 190 by Asif Iqbal and Intikhab Alam of Pakistan against England at The Oval 1967 Tenth wicket—151 by B. F. Hast- ings and R. C. Collinge of New Zealand versus Pakistan at Auckland 1972-73

## Quiz

Harjit Ghose

## QUESTIONS

Find from within the following non- senses the names of internationally famous soccer stars. (Both name and surname are there in each case and they are to be written separately)

- 1 SO ALI OR SOP
- 2 MADE A GOD ON AIR
- 3 F FIND ZOO
- 4 PLAIN MILE ITCH
- 5 AGE RISE SLAIN
- 6 OLD VALERI SO SAD
- 7 GET CLAD IOU LINE
- 8 BAN OI COIN TRAIN
- 9 SKIP BAR ER TILTER
- 10 DEAR MITRA COLL

## ANSWERS

- 1 MARCO TARDELLI
- 2 PIERRE LITBARSKI
- 3 ANTONIO CABRINI
- 4 CLAUDIO GENTILE
- 5 OSVALDO ARDILES
- 6 ALAIN GIRESE
- 7 MICHEL PLATINI
- 8 DINO ZOFF
- 9 DIEGO MARADONA
- 10 PAOLO ROSSI

**Dulal Mitra, Tania Abhijit, Swarnjit, Ansoni**

**Q** What is Madan Lal and Kirmani's record against England?

**A** Madan Lal's record against England is 13 Tests 17 innings twice not out 188 runs 14 as his highest score 12.53 average one duck five catches 2 111 balls 41 maiden overs yielded 997 runs taken 31 wickets 28.48 as his average once with five or more wickets in an innings 5. M H Kirmani's record against England is 13 Tests 22 innings four times unbeaten innings 416 runs 67 being his highest score 23.11 average two fifties three ducks 21 catches and 10 stumpings

**A K Parida Dhenkanal**

**Q** How many centuries has Mohinder Amarnath scored in Tests?

**A** Two

**Kaleem A Khan, Paharpur**

**Q** Please give the names of the Australian and England teams that played the first Test match

**A** C Bannerman, N Thompson T P Horan D W Gregory B B Cooper W E Midwinter E J Gregory J M Blackham T W Garrett T Kendall and J H Hodges played for Australia and England were represented by H Jupp J Selby H R J Chailwood G Vlyett A Greenwood T Armitage A Shaw T Emmett A Hill J Lillywhite and J Southerton

**Subrata Saha, Maidah**

**Q** What is the home address of G S Chappell and D K Lillee of Australia?

**A** You may write to them care Australian Cricket Control Board Cricket House 245 George Street Sydney NSW (Australia)

**J Srinivas, Visakhapatnam, Subroto Sarkar, Sibscager, Chinmoy Biswas, Susania**

**Q** What is B S Bedi's Test record as a bowler?

**A** In 67 Tests, he bowled 21,367 balls, 1,096 maiden overs gave 7,637 runs, took 266 wickets, 28.71 being his average he bowled 14 times with five or more wickets in an innings and once with ten or more wickets in a match

**Prabal Guha, Ballyan North**

**Q** Who were the five cricketers of Wisden in 1981

**A** K J Hughes R D Jackman, A J Lamb C E B Rice and V A P Van der Bijl

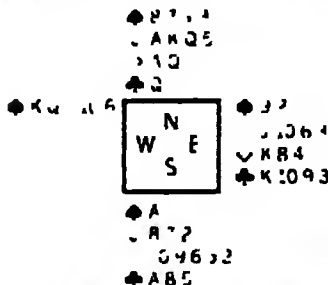
**Q** Who were the Sheffield Shield champions in 1979/80?

**A** Victoria

## Bridge

Arguments after a hand is over can be pleasant or acrimonious. When the kibitzers join in as well, often feel that the idea of getting them to pay for their mistaken analyses is an excellent way of keeping them quiet. Do you get the idea? If they are watching a table that is playing for 50p per 100 and they make a suggestion that could work out badly they have to pay the table at the appropriate rate!

It is a theme that you may have seen before, but see if you would back the South seat kibitzer in his assertions on this deal.



North opened one heart. South responded 1NT and after a raise to two went on 1 game. Against 3NT West made his natural lead of ♠ K and after holding off for one round South won the spade trick.

It was obvious enough to start with a Jamnadas and I found East very nervous on the table when he won immediately (rather than duck) and played back ♠ K to drive out South's entry to the long diamonds. South won with the Ace but when the hearts did not break he was restricted to eight tricks: one spade, three hearts and two tricks in each of the minor suits.

You could have made that! I observed the South kibitzer. Duck ♠ K win the next club on the table and throw East in with the fourth heart. Then you take the rest of the tricks.

It looked all right but South demanded money from the kibitzer. As he explained the plan was very good, but not good enough. Under the Ace King and Queen of hearts East simply unblocks

with his six, ten and Jack. Certainly declarer wins an unexpected trick with ♥ 5 but dummy is left on lead and West wins the last two tricks with his established spades.

South's alter ego paid up, not with conspicuously good grace, but it was noticeable that he became less free with his comments as the play continued.

**Last week's quiz.** As South, at love all, you held ♠ Q 7, ♥ A Q B 7 4, ♦ J 8 7 ♣ 8 4 2. West dealt and opened one-diamond, North overcalled with one spade and East bid two-clubs. There are several things that South might try. He could pass (after all, two-clubs is forcing and West will bid again), he could raise to two-spades, for Qx should be sufficient support for an overcall, he could try two hearts. The latest approach is to double. This can hardly be for penalties as South knows that the bidding will continue, and logically shows the unbid suit (hearts) and tolerance for partner's suit.

**This week's quiz.** As South you deal with ♠ B, ♥ K Q J 10 7 4, ♦ K 3, ♣ K Q 10 4 and open 1♥. Your partner surprises you with an immediate 4NT and you bid 5♣ to show no aces. Now he bids 5NT - asking for Kings. How to you reply?

## Chess

**Ilmor Claret**

In last week's article, the first in a series about great players from the USA, I wrote that a typical game by Paul Morphy would be given now. The following win of his does not strictly meet that description, since it is one of his very best performances. However, much of his play in it certainly typifies and illustrates the strengths which put him so far above his contemporaries. Simple, fast and harmonious development of the white forces yields Morphy the upper hand, and he goes on to exploit Black's weakening of his King position to obtain a decisive advantage (a dominant Knight against a poor Bishop and strong threats on the K side).

Finally, a pawn thrust on the QB file prepares the ground for a pretty combination. Perhaps it was this positional masterpiece above all that inspired Sternitz to make a deep study of Mor-

phy's methods

White: Paul Morphy, Black: Daniel Harrwitz  
Philidor Defence (4th Game Match Paris, 1858)

1 P - ♠4, P - ♠4, 2 ♠ - ♠B3, P - ♠3  
3 P - ♠4, P x P, 4 ♠ x P, ♠ - ♠B3  
5 ♠ - ♠B5, ♠ - ♠2, 6 ♠ x ♠2, ♠ x ♠  
7 ♠ - ♠B5, P - ♠3, 8 ♠ - ♠4, ♠ - ♠3  
9 ♠ - ♠3, ♠ - ♠2, 10 ♠ - ♠, ♠ - ♠2  
11 ♠B - ♠1, ♠ - ♠, 12 ♠ - ♠4ch, ♠ - ♠2

Either 12 K - R1 or 12 K1 - B2 was more natural

13 ♠ - ♠4, ♠ - ♠B5, 14 P - ♠B3, ♠ - ♠4  
15 ♠ - ♠2, P - ♠B4

In such situations you should offer a light defence rather than voluntarily create holes for enemy men

16 ♠ - ♠B3, ♠ - ♠2, 17 ♠ - ♠B5, ♠ - ♠3  
18 P - ♠4, P x P, 19 ♠ x ♠P, K - R1  
20 ♠ - ♠4, ♠ - ♠1, 21 ♠ x ♠2, ♠P x ♠  
22 ♠ - ♠B1, ♠ - ♠3, 23 ♠ - ♠B5, ♠ - ♠1

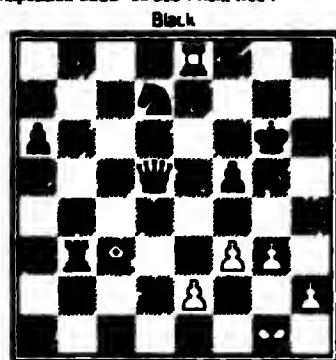
23 Q - Q2 was sounder

24 ♠ - ♠2, P - ♠B3, 25 ♠ x ♠P, ♠ - ♠1  
26 ♠ - ♠B5, ♠ x ♠2, 27 P x ♠, ♠ - ♠2

The KR2 point needed more protection

28 P - ♠4, ♠ - ♠2, 29 ♠ - ♠B5, ♠ - ♠1  
30 P - ♠B5, ♠ x ♠P, 31 ♠ x ♠ch, K x ♠  
32 ♠ - ♠Bch, K - ♠1, 33 ♠ x ♠ch, K - ♠2  
34 ♠ - ♠Bch, K - ♠1, 35 ♠ x P, Resigns

Composition 0838 Solution next week



White

White to play and win. Grade 3 (medium)

**Solution to 0837 (Morphy - Benko, El Paso, 1873)**

(♠1/♠1/7p/1q1p1P1♠2B/3r3B/♠P4♠2B - Black to play) Benko finished off the game with a little burst of fireworks: 46 R x B 47 R x R K1 - K♠5ch, 48 K K1, Q - K♠5ch, and White resigned in view of 49 K - B2, Q - B7ch, 50 K - K1, Q - B♠5ch 51 K - B2, Q - Q7ch, etc

**Problem No 1204 Solution next week**  
W. Spielmann Österreichische Schachzeitung, 1956)

(7P/7P♠B/♠B3/♠B♠/♠r1 - 4 white men, 3 black)

White to play and mate in six moves

**Solution to No 1203 (Fink).**

(♠7/♠B♠P/♠P♠2/1R1P♠3/♠B♠/♠P1/2♠P1/♠2/4r1♠1 - mate in four) 1 B - K2 (threat 2 Q - K3) (a) 1 K1 - B4, 2 K1 - K♠5, (b) 1 P x B, 2 P - Q4, (c) 1 R x B, 2 Q - R1

calico

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13 OCTOBER 1982

# Sportsworld



**DIAS  
TAKES  
PRIDE  
OF  
PLACE**



Calibre: It's when you dare to swim, but don't let the waves swallow you. It's  
burning perfect presence.



cali—ben : It's what some men look for in other men and all men look for in suitings.

cali—ben suitings

calico



6

### SPORT WILL BECOME A MOVEMENT

The newly-installed Minister of Sport, Bala Singh, explains his aims and also elaborates on his plans for the improvement of sports in this country



12

### TENNIS IS BIG BUSINESS

There is plenty of money on the international circuit notes RAMANATHAN KRISHNAN but most of it is earmarked for only those at the very top. An exclusive conversation with PARTAB RAMCHAND

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### INDIA WIN ONE DAY SERIES

India walked away with the one-day series against Sri Lanka by beating them in the third international also. Srikanth and Dias outstood though the latter was on the losing side. PARTAB RAMCHAND reports. Also: Roy Dias interview



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Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Anil Sen

Chief Sub Editor David McMahon

Editorial Staff Subhash Sarker

Correspondents: Bombay Harish Murtari, Madras Ashok Kamath

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It is not as if a higher over rate cannot be achieved. When a mandatory over rate of 16 per hour was enforced by the ICCB in the recent series in England, both teams (England, with 4 seamers in their side) bowled the daily quota of 96 overs quite comfortably. It is high time that the BCCI introduces this ruling in Test matches played in India, so that the paying public is not cheated of its due.

Certain other remediable factors which contribute to the slow pace of Test cricket in India are:

1) The frequency with which a ball loses its shape and the delay involved in finding a suitable substitute.

2) The elaborate and comic ritual associated with the 'drinks interval'—what with trolleys and liveried waiters. For instance, on the third day of the Test match between India and Sri Lanka, (an) restricted the post-lunch session to 75 minutes. Nevertheless, a drinks break of 10 minutes was

enjoyed at the spectator's expense.

3) While Test cricket all over the world is played over six hours a day, in India we still play for only 5½ hours, apparently on the pretext that in some centres it gets dark early! **DR P PADMA KUMAR, Madras**

## The neutrality question

**EAGERLY** look forward to the India-Pakistan Test series as a lover and fan of cricket. But as a self-respecting Indian I would like to make a suggestion to your goodself for the above series to be played with umpires from neutral countries. I suggest that you should insist for umpires from any other cricket playing country mutually agreeable to both sides to avoid humiliation of Indian players.

I fully realise that such Test series are played in the interests of sports and also to develop friendship and goodwill among the participating countries.

My above suggestion may appear to be very odd at first sight but experience shows that all Tests played till date have generated only bitterness among the participants and the cricket loving public of both the countries and the nett result has only been trading of mutual accusations of unfair practices on the part of umpires. Once umpiring is kept out of Indian and/or Pakistani hands the major irritant will be removed. I feel that if the Pakistani authorities refuse neutral umpiring the series itself may be cancelled rather than let our boys be humiliated and insulted.

**PRAVEEN DAMODAR, Coimbatore**

(Copies also sent to Shri Buta Singh and Shri Wankhede)

## Disheartening

**THE** stepmotherly attitude shown by the AIR towards the Sri Lankan cricket side during the Madras Test was disheartening. The inadequate coverage deprived many listeners of the opportunity of listening to skipper Gavaskar getting his 25th Test century. The commentary should have been broadcast on other frequencies also. In the greater interest of the popularity of the game in the country these sort of mistakes should not be repeated in the future.

**G PURNA RAO, Sonepuri**

AIILR tuning in to the commentary during the Madras Test I was convinced that Indian broadcasting is not up to the mark. Moreover, for a listener like me, I found Hindi quite unwelcome and also incongruous in a game of English styles and mannerisms. To be a good commentator you need not have to be a veteran cricketer. The only requirement should be a sound knowledge of the game and, of course, a good voice. I cannot understand how the commentators for the Madras Test were selected when there were others who could have easily been tried. By

the latter group I mean Ashis Ray, Anant Setalvad, Kishore Bhimani, Sushil Doshi, Dicky Rutnagar and Dr Narottam Puri. One of the remedies could be to select a Test panel of four commentators with one as a stand-by and inclusive of an expert commentator to go around the Test centres. Also, why doesn't the AIR have a separate metre band for Hindi commentary for the uninterrupted benefit of English listeners?

**ROBIN CHATTO-PADHYAYA,**

Uttarpara

## Best-over Indian hockey team

**I**FEEL that the best ever Indian hockey team living should go something like this: Shankar Laxman (goalkeeper), Surjit Singh (left back), Prithpal Singh (right back), Claudius (right half back), Ajitpal Singh (centre half back), Perumal (left half back), Bhola (left extreme), Udham Singh (left in), Balbir Singh (centre forward and captain), Peter or Ashok Kumar (right in), Raghbir Lal or Phillips (right extreme). Reserves: Keshav Dutt, B P Govinda and Mohammed Shahid.

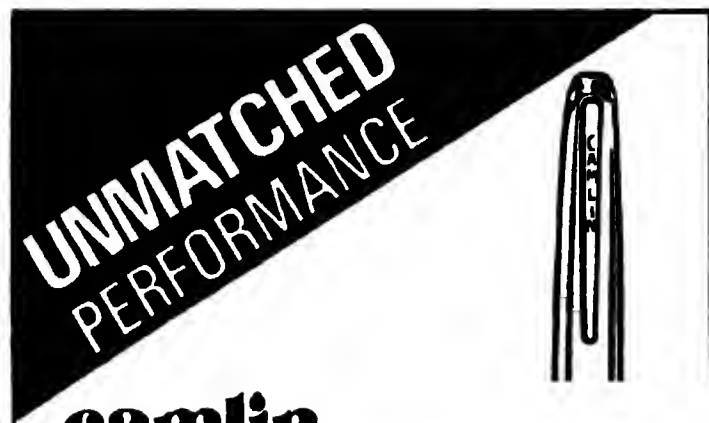
**K V RAJAN,**

Madras

## Srinivasan to blame

**SOME** of I. E. Srinivasan's statements during the interview carried by your magazine smacked of arrogance and the inability to accept that he is just not good enough. There can be no denying the fact that Srinivasan did not make good the ample opportunities provided to him on the Australasian tour of 1980-81. Time and again, he threw his wicket away after being well set. In fact, he gave the picture of a man whose ultimate aim was to wear an India blazer and for one not caring for his team's interests. Maybe he did better than a few of the players but it must not be forgotten that he was fighting for a place in the middle order.

**DEEPAK GOIL, Bangalore**



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# ASIAD VENUES

## Double treat at the Ambedkar Stadium

**T**HE Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, previously known as the Corporation Stadium, will be the venue for football and wrestling events during the Ninth Asiad. This is the only football stadium of the walled city and has been the centre of many a battle royal in the Durand and DCM football tournaments.

The work of the renovation of this stadium was entrusted to the Delhi Municipal Corporation. At first, the Leaze Shah Kotla cricket ground was selected as venue for wrestling, but finally the choice fell on the Ambedkar Stadium barely a stone's throw away.

The renovation and remodelling work was necessitated to accommodate various requirements and to meet international standards of playgrounds.

Additional public conveniences, wire mesh fencing around the playing arena, face lifting of "kachha" tracks, re-turfing of the ground and fire fighting arrangements conforming to international

standards have been provided.

This stadium will also now have adequate facilities for players, officials, media agencies and civic amenities for spectators. These are as follows:

1. A new double storeyed block on the northern side of the existing stadium.
2. Single storeyed block, in place of the existing "kachha" structure in front of the main stadium.
3. Renovation of change rooms of the existing stadium and improvement of general surroundings.
4. A specially designed podium has been fabricated for wrestling bouts.

It was felt necessary to shift the existing tiers on the eastern side and to reconstruct these, raising the capacity from 4500 to 6200 at an estimated cost of Rs 22.11 lakhs.

A double storeyed and a single-storeyed block providing amenities have been constructed in accordance with the recommendations of the Delhi Urban Art Commission. It will cater to the requirements of Press, VIPs, Re-

ferees and other officials at an estimated cost of Rs 9.6 lakhs.

The work of fabrication of the portable podium required for wrestling competitions was undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 6.01 lakhs. In order to ensure that the sportsmen get a secure environment wire mesh fencing has been erected all around the playfield at a cost of Rs 2.29 lakhs. Necessary face lifting has been given to the "kachha" tiers at an estimated cost of Rs 50,000.

For making space available for corner kicks the existing south east boundary wall was demolished and re-erected at a more suitable place at a cost of Rs 50,000.

There are two other venues for football matches. They are the Model Town Stadium and the main Nehru Stadium. The finals will be played in the main stadium.

The football matches will be held from November 20 to December 3 (29th November being the test day). The matches at

the Nehru Stadium will be held in floodlight.

A new public address system has been provided keeping international standards in view. This would cost Rs 1.89 lakhs.

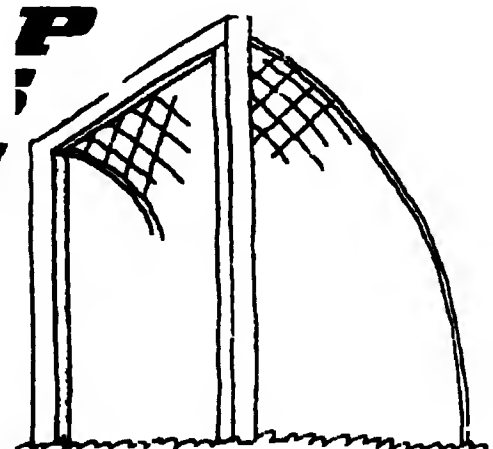
The scoreboard installed at the stadium has been given a new look to ensure proper and instant information to spectators watching the game. In addition to it arrangements have been made for security at an estimated cost of Rs 1.79 lakhs. To clearly demarcate the different types of tiers, wire mesh fencing has been provided.

Various additional requirements for conducting wrestling events have been finalised. These works were undertaken at a cost of Rs 7.48 lakhs.

These include construction of a Federation Office for wrestling events, raising and improvement of existing "kachha" tier on the western side of the Ambedkar Stadium, construction of pedestrian walkways outside the stadium, and replacement of chairs.



lead the way



# Sport will become a system and a movement

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT interviews Buta Singh

**M**R Buta Singh was in Athens, attending a meeting of the International Amateur Athletic Federation during the European Athletic Championships when the Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, in a Cabinet reshuffle appointed him the country's first Minister for Sport.

After all the experience he has gained as president of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India and chairman of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee (AGSOC) the choice was obvious, though the creation of a separate Ministry for Sport did come as something of a surprise gift to all those who had been clamouring for it.

Mr Buta Singh's task is not going to be an easy one. Pre-occupied as he has been with the stupendous task of

organising the Asian Games, he has not had much time to apply himself to other matters with which he will be concerned as minister for Sport. But the enthusiasm and zeal he expressed during an interview with this writer bodes well for the future.

**SPORTSWORLD:** For the first time the country has a Minister for Sport. Have you been given any specific guidelines or policies to help you in the discharge of your duties?

**BUTA SINGH:** As a sports organiser heading a premier sports federation (Amateur Athletic Federation of India) for several years and having functioned under the patronage of the Indian Olympic Association led by Raja Bhalindra Singh whose entire family has done so much for

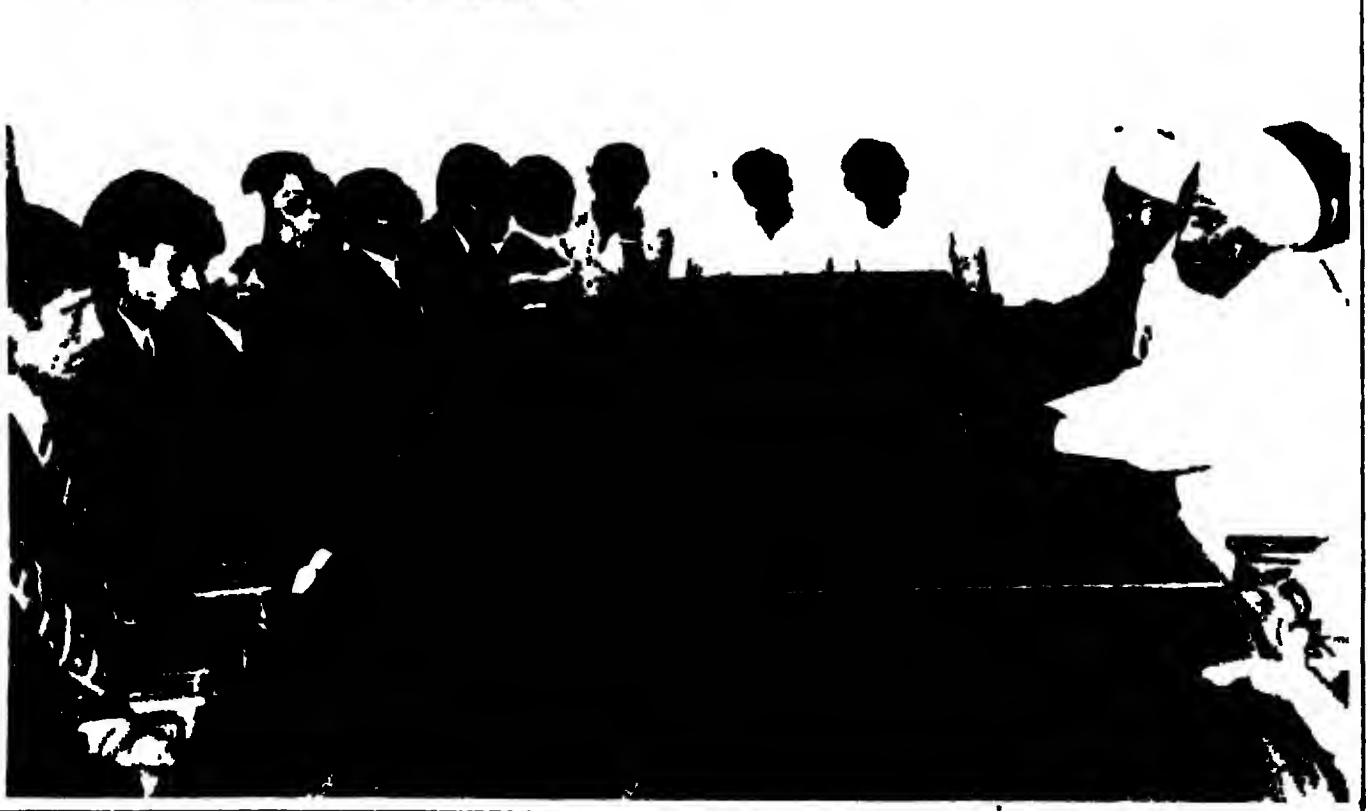
Indian sport, it is my duty to thank Mrs Indira Gandhi on my behalf. Also on behalf of other sports leaders for having decided to create a ministry for a sport.

All those people who have been demanding such a ministry in the interest of Indian sport should be grateful to her. Documents like the Deshmukh Report and the policy now being finalised by the All India Council of Sports will be of help in my work as Sports Minister.

**SW:** How does a separate ministry help sport?

**BS:** Previously the department in the Education Ministry dealing with sport was connected with it only in a limited manner—like preparation of teams for major competitions. Sport will become a system and a move-

Buta Singh with Indian athletes prior to their departure to Tokyo





ment with the establishment of a separate ministry Sport will get a big boost, especially with the facilities and infrastructure that have been created for the Asian Games.

**SW:** In which areas specifically do you propose to function in your mission to make sport a movement?

**BS:** We have hitherto been thinking of schools and colleges alone as the nurseries of sportsmen/women. Nothing wrong with that. But I propose to encourage talent more seriously elsewhere also. There is a vast number of young people who are still not privileged enough to be able to take part in organised sport in schools and colleges—people in the rural areas and the tribals. These people also have talent.

I propose to harness this talent wherever it exists—from the mountains of the north to the rivers of the south. Thus I consider a major task. Let me give you examples. The Nagas and the Bhils don't have to be told what archery is all about. For that matter the *Bazigars* of Punjab don't have to be told about intricate gymnastic exercises. There is plenty of latent talent in these young people waiting to be discovered and developed.

**SW:** Have you set yourself any goals—short and long-term?

**BS:** Yes, there are certain priorities for competitive sport. I propose to pick up some disciplines at which we are good and concentrate on them. For example hockey, wrestling, cycling, shooting and equestrianism.

While concentrating on these sports the others will also be encouraged with an eye on the future. Indigenous sports like kabaddi will also receive equal attention. In fact, it will be a mass-based sports policy in which the less expensive games like kabaddi, football, cross-country running and jumping will be specially encouraged. District level competitions in these sports will be regular features.

**SW:** Thus far, sport has been a part of the Education Ministry. Now that it will constitute a separate ministry, will it be allotted a separate budget? And with all the plans you have in mind it will be a more sizeable one.

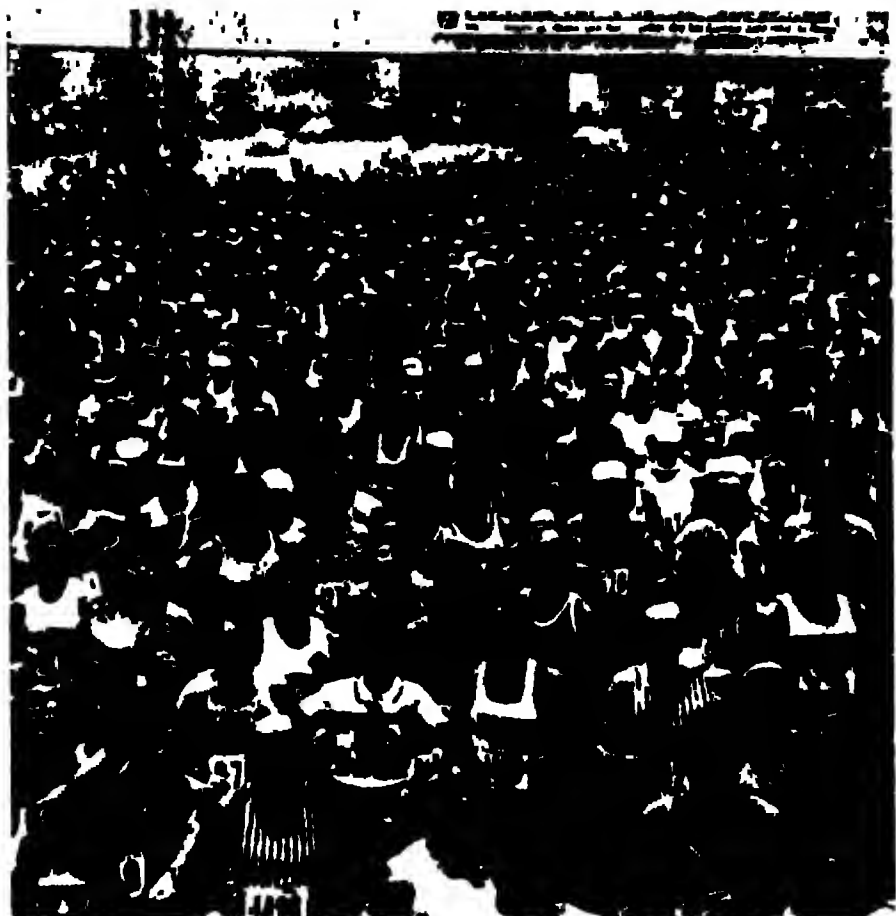
**BS:** Yes. A budget will have to be provided. More funds will have to be allocated to sport.

**SW:** As you know, the Olympic movement frowns on governmental or any other form of control. As Minister for Sport now, do you see any conflicts?

**BS:** In more than half the world, sport is government controlled.

**SW:** How smooth do you think your relations with the sports federations will be?

**BS:** I look forward to the best of relations. I have a complete rapport with them. For about two years now, the federations have functioned from the AGS/OG premises. We have been like a family.



The Boston Marathon in progress. Will we soon have a comparable event?

**SW:** When Mr V C Shukla became the chairman of the All-India Council of Sports, he had to resign the presidency of the Badminton Association of India. Will you have to follow his example and resign the presidency of the Athletics Federation?

**BS:** The AICS has certain rules laid down. The Ministry rules make no mention of my having to resign any other post. However, let me tell you that I don't propose to continue as the AAI president. It is not possible to do justice. I will step down after the Asian Games.

**SW:** Sport, being part of education, is a State subject. Any comments?

**BS:** I would like to see every State in the country setting up a Ministry of Sport so that sport becomes a powerful movement and takes its rightful place in the life of the nation.

**SW:** And now, about your Asian Games task. Were you satisfied with the Trial Games exercise?

**BS:** It was a useful experience and I am satisfied.

**SW:** What have you to say in answer to the Press criticism?

**BS:** The Press criticism was very valuable, especially about the technical aspects. But there was a basic difference between our approach and that of the Press. Our approach was to test the facilities.

For us it was a trial of the arenas

we have built, all the while racing against time. The Press expected the Trial Games to be on the scale of the Asian Games. Usually, such Trial Games or mini games are held at least one year before the actual event. But this was not the case with us. We were short of time.

**SW:** What about the shortcomings and the work which still remains to be completed?


**BS:** As I said earlier I am quite satisfied. There were no major shortcomings or defects, only minor ones, like shortage of water in the village and other such things. All these difficulties will be removed well in time. I have no doubt about that.

**SW:** But our poor prospects of winning gold medals must be worrying you? Are you satisfied with our athletes' performances in the Trial Games?

**BS:** In some disciplines like swimming, hockey, volleyball and tennis we have shown an improvement. As for athletics and cycling, the unusual heat prevented the athletes from giving of their best.

**SW:** Was our coaching/training over all these months adequate? Would you say you were satisfied with it?

**BS:** By and large yes. Though it may not be to one's entire satisfaction. The GDR coaches in volleyball and swimming have done a good job and also the cycling coach from Denmark.



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# "We did our best to distribute Asiad tickets"

**RAJIV GANDHI, who has taken it upon himself to ensure that everything concerning the Asiad runs smoothly, tells ASIT BANERJEE**

**SW** How do you react to the critical stand taken by the Press on the Trial Games?

**RG** They should not demoralise our sincere workers. The whole system and in particular the food was criticised by them. I went to the Village. The food was not bad and was also nutritive.

It is reported that when Rajiv Gandhi visited the Games Village, the food served by the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) was of a superior quality and also nutritive. However, the food for the occupants was not as nutritive as it should have been for the athletes participating in rigorous competition. The need of the occupants was

also directed against the inadequate quantity of food served both during breakfast and lunch. The boxers and some officials reported that they ate lunch outside on their own to avoid indigestion. The water supply was also most irregular, due to a dispute between the DDA and Delhi Water Supply Dept. But all these problems were temporarily solved when dignitaries visited the Village.

**SW** After your visits to the stadia, are you satisfied with the overall progress being made?

**RG** You see, it is all the result of team work. We started less than a year ago. The superstructure was started in October 1981. How can we

expect everything ready—the 17 stadia, the equipment, the facilities? It is a huge thing. We are working confidently.

This 10 day long sports festival is a trial—a trial in the true sense of the word. Not only for the participants and the officials but for all of us, the Asian Games Special Organising Committee, and for every worker associated with this herculean task. We invite healthy criticism to help us detect the flaws which we will rectify.

**SW** The Hall of States, the venue for table tennis and boxing, requires vertically directed light on the tables and the arena. Here, 216 1000 watt halogen lamps have been fixed with an added facility of 40 x 1000 watt lamps for colour TV coverage. But at the Netaji Indoor Stadium, we have an adjustable lighting arrangement which does not produce any glare effect that disturbs the players.

**RG** The complete lighting system has been computerised to achieve the desired illumination level. But you have pointed out a technical flaw. We must look into the matter.

**SW** What are the future plans for this venue?

**RG** Eventually it will be used for organising trade fairs and exhibitions.

The Trade Fair Authority of India aims at creating 60,000 square metres of permanent covered space in the near future to obtain membership of the International Union of Trade Fairs, Paris and thus avail special facilities and advantages. This hall is ideally suited for holding international conferences. The hall has a seating capacity of 4,000.

**SW** Germany has been organising regular events to utilise the stadia they built for the Munich Olympics. In the last calendar year, Moscow has organised one international convention or conference a day. Is India going to follow their example?

**RG** National and international meets will be held regularly. Mr Bura Singh will work out programmes to keep these stadia utilised.

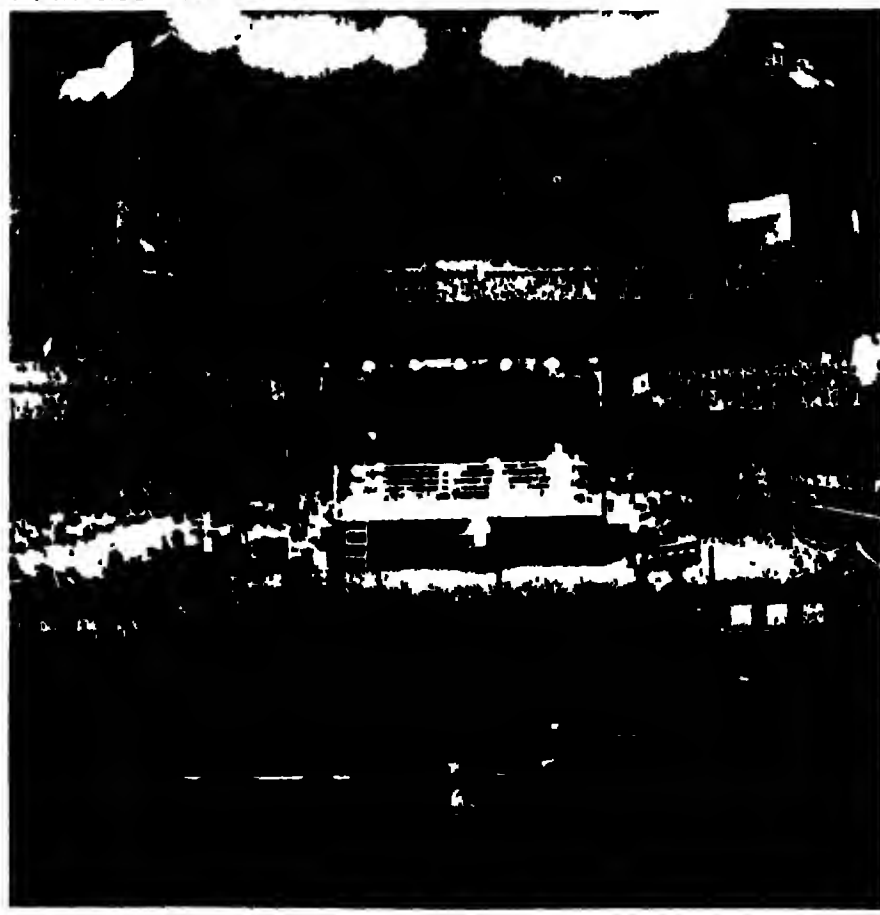
**SW** Are we planning beyond the Asiad?

**RG** Why not try a world championships? We have the stadia, the arrangements, the latest equipment and the knowledge. We can have anything we need. After the success of this venture we can easily plan a world championship.

**SW** Allegations are being made that tickets for the Asiad have been cornered by interested parties. Is it true that there have been foul-ups in the distribution of tickets?

**RG** That is not true. We did our best to distribute the tickets all over this country and outside as well. So far, only 700 tickets remain to be returned to the committee. The response has been tremendous. I know that some people have bought tickets from Bangkok and Singapore.

The controversial Hall of States



# The light of other days

ASHIS RAY reports on the Old Rest of the World against the Old England match, marred by rain, that took place in London

**T**HE last wicket fell and as was customary for him in his heyday, Rohan Babulal Kanhai walked in to till the breach. His hair thinner and all grey, his frame a lot stockier than yesteryears, but there was no mistaking the gait, nor the sweetness of the bat muddling the ball once he got underway at the crease.

He was more watchful than in his prime, playing himself in as he would have rarely done in the past. But once set, he unfurled a repertoire of strokes that had the connoisseurs crackling with delight at The Oval. He made room to cut as if re-enacting that double hundred at the Eden Gardens in the late Fifties. He stepped back to drive through the covers as if back at Adelaide in the 'In' series, when he pummelled the Aussies to the tune of two separate centuries in the match. And he hustled the bowlers over mid wicket and mid on in the most contemptuous manner conceivable. It was vintage stuff, and he tried to a chanceless 82 not out to erase all competition for the Man of the Match award, playing for the Old Rest of the World against Old England in a not, sadly interrupted by rain.

And what better entertainment could there be for in a half century stand for the fourth wicket, his partner was done other than the great man himself—Sir Garfield Sobers. The tour in 1961 off-rounder was accorded a rapturous welcome as he changed the batting order at Tiger Parade's highest and preceded the latter to the wicket. Indeed the attrition notwithstanding, he crushed the much younger John Snow past extra cover to open his account. The portly and no longer 'Tiger' Fielding Innesman was lofted over the covers for six in an over that cost the Yorkshireman 24 runs as the irrepressible Kanhai took four boundaries off it. But the provoked playerman let his rage when with one that could away be knocked back Sobers' 50, rump to 32 which brought about the closure for the visitors at 217 to 100 in the forty over Sunday League type encounter.

Earlier Bobby Simpson in his bay green cap still looking capable of initiating proceedings for his country and the now port-bellied Brookn Engineer opened the innings for the

tourists. The Australian departed after a brisk 37 leaving the stage vacant for the rugged Indian as he stepped out to smack the ball through the covers or past midwicket. It was as if time had stood still. The more enterprising had remained that way and the crowd loved them for it.

An obdurate Engineer was not what they had come to see, and the flamboyant man did not disappoint them before he was stumped for 45.

After the Bombavite and before



Sobers hit Trueman for a six over cover

Sobers entered there was a brief spell of mastery from one of the outstanding post War batsman—Neil Harvey. Now, sporting tinted spectacles and by no means lighting fit, he, nevertheless, proved that timing and the twinkle of toes are factors that never wane. In a non violent vein he caressed the ball through the covers reminding the Englishmen in no uncertain fashion of the pain he had once inflicted on them.

The kids had threatened to shatter the serenity all afternoon, and,

like the spoilsport it is in England, intervened midway through the England innings. Already the contest had continued in very poor light, and was ultimately left inconclusive. Not that it mattered and not indeed before a few more delightful moments.

Ray Lindwall, now well past 60, opened the bowling for the Rest of the World with Charlie Giffith sharing the new ball with him. The milky hair and the broad midriff notwithstanding, the outline of the once terrifying Australian's classical action did not go unnoticed, while the West Indian's looked a lot smoother and less suspicious than what purists discredited him for in the early Sixties.

Also on view were Wesley Hall and Lance Gibbs—the former with a characteristically long run up and the other, now settled in Miami in the United States, still demonstrating glimpses of the mesmeric spin that fetched him more than three hundred Test wickets.

In contrast, the Englishmen confronting these bowlers were not as distinguished in terms of their Test match record. Mike Denness, Peter Parfitt and Philip Sharpe were not exactly redoubtable England exponents and stories from the dressing room suggested that there was a bit of politics (since there was a money factor) involved in the team selection. Where, one wondered, were the Comptons, Mays and Cowdrieys? Of for that matter, the Strathams and the Titmuses? The explanation was that Tony Lewis had taken most of them away for a tour of America. But surely, this did not account for all.

Anyhow, Tom Graveney and Basil D'Oliveira, apart from Trueman and Snow were present in the line up, though neither of them got a chance to wield the willow. Rain cut short the exhibition when England had reached 112 for two. John Edrich and Sharpe had gone fairly cheaply. But Denness and Parfitt, with 27 and 44 respectively, prevented any further damage.

It had been pelting down for some time. But Sobers refused to go off, wanting to give the spectators their money's worth. Ultimately, there came a stage when it was no longer sensible to stay on—the crowd having been driven away by the rain and apparently 'The Nawab,' who had shown that his throws from the boundary line were as flat and accurate as in his youth, persuaded the enthusiastic elements to make a beeline for the pavilion.

Happily, a match of this nature could be the precursor of many such displays in future with Courage Breweries, the sponsors, planning to hold another union next year, and for the same cause—the construction of indoor cricket facilities at The Oval. Also, Courage have ideas of taking an England team to the West Indies and India in the near future.

# The old order changeth

**PARTAB RAMCHAND** files his despatch on the Board's Annual General Meeting in Bangalore

A JOURNALIST colleague walked out from the Press Box in the midst of the one-day international at Bangalore on 26 September and went towards the telephone "Where are you going? There is a match going on," said his friend, a former test cricketer "This is a minor match," replied the journalist "I am going to find out the score in the bigger game being played at the hotel" And everyone around knew what he meant

When this long weekend was over, it had to be admitted that while there were no fireworks, it certainly wasn't a quiet or smooth weekend. The meeting had its quota of surprises, high drama, low humour, diatribes, suspense—and the works. It certainly will go down as one of the most remarkable Annual General Meetings in the Board's 53-year-old history.

One can't actually pinpoint any single date or event to track the beginning of this revolution. For discontent had been growing among certain member associations over the past few years. Slowly they began to emerge as the North-East faction which formed the rival party against the Establishment group represented by the combination of the West and the South Central Zone, in keeping with its geographical position was more or less a fence sitter.

Here only remained an important issue to rake up and the Rs 35 lakhs case—which is now too well known to need recounting here—came in handy for the rival group, headed by Mr Jagmohan Dalmia of Bengal and Mr J S Bindra of Punjab. In the meantime they had succeeded in getting Mr Salve, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, to contest for the post of the President. He became their trump card.

The first signs that this was not going to be just another meeting were seen at Madras in the week before the Bangalore gathering. Hardly any Board official seemed to be bothered about attending the Madras Test. They were only interested in planning their strategy for Bangalore. The battle lines had been clearly drawn as the important date neared. Cross voting in one or two cases was expected but finally it seemed that the crucial votes would be those from the Central Zone. It

also depended on how well the two sides played their cards.

At the outset the Establishment suffered a setback with Mr Wankhede not being able to make it to the meeting because of his wife's ill health and his own leg injury. But as soon as the meeting started it was the turn of the rival group to suffer. The first one came when there was news that the Vidharba Cricket Association had been restrained from sending its representatives from attending by a court order. Mr Salve was on the VCA ticket and the rival group was panicky and hurried phone calls were made to Nagpur to the judge's house to get a clearance. The restraint order was kept in abeyance till 30 September.

The North-East combine, thus seemed to have overcome one hurdle. But they they were inflicted a not altogether unexpected defeat. The meeting had to be chaired and in the absence of Mr Wankhede, logically it ought to have been S. Sriraman, the senior Vice President of the Board. But the rival group put up Mr Murugesu Jaikrishna of Gujarat insisting on a secret ballot. The contest was obviously the first trial of strength between the two groups. Sriraman carried the day by 15 votes to 12.

This put the North-East alliance hitherto confident on the defensive. They had not expected this reverse. But then the Establishment won the next round, too. This was when the issue of the accounts came up. This included the Rs 35 lakhs scandal. The accounts were passed unanimously and, in the words of Sriraman, "In three minutes." No one raised the issue of Rs 35 lakhs and one official called it "Lack of guts" on the part of the rival group. "They make such a big hue and cry about the issue and then don't even bother to raise it at the meeting. How spineless can they get", he asked.

The elections were also supposed to be held on the opening day, 25 September. But somehow, the two parties seemed unwilling to tackle this major issue. There were bickerings, arguments and counter arguments. Mr Salve in the meantime let it be known that if he was to be the Board chief, he would have to be elected unanimously. There was no question of elections. The North-East combine then struck up the idea of

having a compromise formula by which Mr Salve would be elected unopposed as the President. This was not acceptable and everything for a time seemed chaotic. By the time it was already past 5 p.m. and Sriraman decided that the elections ought to be put off by a day.

Thus, only routine matters were discussed. Besides the accounts, the budget for 1982-83 was also passed and the annual report adopted. The Board's profit from the England tour of India last winter came to Rs 24 lakhs. The other general income over expenditure amounted at Rs 51,000.

Even though the Establishment had rejected the rival group's idea of consensus vote for Mr Salve, it was obvious as soon as the meeting had resumed that they were fighting a losing battle on this issue. The arguments started early and so sharp were they that an adjournment was forced after an hour. This was for about half an hour and it gave time for the proceedings to be carried out in a calmer atmosphere. Still, according to one official, the Establishment would have carried the day by a 14-12 margin if it had come to voting. "But we were badly let down by two Central Zone representatives," he moaned. "They decided to throw in their lot at the last moment with the group backing Mr Salve and then the minister's election became a certainty." It is learnt that even the minister made a fervent appeal for unanimity.

There was little change in the other office bearers. Mr A. W. Kamadikar stayed on as secretary as did joint secretary Ranbir Singh Mahendia. Mr M. A. Chidambaram became the treasurer for the twentieth year running and the vice presidents in order of seniority were S. Sriraman (South Zone), K. K. Mehra (North), H. P. Singhania (Central), M. Jaikrishna (West) and B. N. Datta (East). The last named in place of Mr Bodhanwalla was the only change.

The selection committee, as expected, underwent a drastic change. It now wears a new, fresh and young look. Chulam Ahmed (South Zone) is the new chairman and the only other member remaining from the old set is C. T. Sarwate (Central). Pankaj Roy came back into the committee from East Zone in place of Dattu Phadkar. Chandu Borde replaced Polly Umrigar from the West and Bishan Singh Bedi took Vijay Mehra's place from the North.

One important decision taken was not to implement the new table of points for the Ranji Trophy championship in coming season. This was a bit of surprise for even till the day before, its implementation seemed only a formality. Obviously, there were a lot of reservations about the system itself. It does have loopholes and in a way it was good that the implementation had been put off instead of rushing it into our most important domestic tournament.

# Today's players enjoy too many rights

The legendary RAMANATHAN KRISHNAN tells PARTAB RAMCHAND

**R**AMANATHAN KRISHNAN, 45, is the agent for a well-known cooking gas company in Madras. He has just built a shiny new spacious house in VIT colony, a prominent residential area in the city. Needless to say, it has a tennis court.

Krishnan speaks smoothly and evenly. The only time he got a bit worked up was when he talked about the rift with the Amritraj brothers. Obviously, this issue has hurt him a lot. Otherwise he spoke in a most calm and open manner on all other questions.

On changes in the game since his day.

The changes in the game are reflected in the status of tennis today. In my days it was not a career. Now it is very much so. In those days you had to combine tennis and studies, tennis and business. Now, however, tennis is the business.

In my day you could not give 100 per cent to tennis. I know I did not. I could have done better if I had played more in Australia, which was the leading tennis nation then. But because of studies and then business commitments, I could not.

Frankly, I did not expect that there would be such a drastic change. Who would have thought for example that one day even the Davis Cup competition would go open. I played five months a year, but Ramesh now plays ten months a year. Just compare the father and son. That sums up the changes in the game. Also in my day, you could not have had the kind of boycott that Wimbledon had in 1973.

On pro tennis then and now.

You may find it hard to believe, but in the early 1970s players like Janowitz and Krieger were actually scared. First because the pros were so few in number. Then because they were playing for money in what was essentially an amateur game society looked down on them. They were literally browned upon. They had a complex. But now the situation has changed. It is no more an amateur game. Only professional Prize money has been accepted. It is a rebellion on society itself.

On whether commercialism is good



for the game.

The people have voted for it. Like in everything else, there are both good and bad points. It is good for the players, but only for the top players. Only they can make real big money.

Now each player is an investment, an institution, a company in himself. It is a misnomer to say that there is a lot of money in tennis. There is a lot of money, but only for those who reach the top. It is a risk taking in tennis as a career. I took the risk in Ramesh's case.

On why India has lagged behind in commercialism.

Lack of finance is the primary reason. Rs 10,000 is a lot of money for Indians but it is peanuts to foreign players. That kind of money does not attract top players and that is why our Grand Prix tournament was such a big flop. I don't think our administrators have yet accepted the fact of professionalism and open tennis.

On the pro offer made to him and why he turned it down.

Yes, I was offered £150,000 sterling for a four-year contract by Krieger. He kept offering it to me for four years but I did not accept.

I was one of the few players to turn it down when I realised that if I accepted I could not play Wimbledon and Davis Cup. Today, if the same offer was made, I would have accepted it because I would have been allowed to play in all these tournaments. I feel that by turning down the offer I showed a lot of guts.

On the charge that Vijay is the greater of the two because he has played open tennis while Krishnan did not.

Who were the pros in my day? They were the best amateurs I played. I had just before he turned pro. I played Rosewall just before he became a pro. Likewise me with other stars like Trabert, Fraser and Laver. So one cannot say that I did not play against the world's best players at my time.

On the rift with the Amritraj brothers.

This is one more instance of politics in sports. It was the officials who set the whole thing up as Krishnan vs Amritraj.

It was done for selfish motives, for petty reasons. Today I laugh at the whole thing. But they (the officials) killed Indian tennis. They set it back five years at a time when it was proceeding smoothly. The whole thing stinks.

They should have felt proud and happy that the country had two players of our calibre. Instead, they set us up against one another.

What really counts is the number of young players in a certain country, not who is the captain.

We might have had differences over strategy and tactics, but that does not mean anything. I may have differences with my wife, but that does not mean we don't get along. Likewise, even the Amritraj brothers and I could have got along, had only the officials allowed it. I have nothing otherwise against the Amritraj brothers.

On his role as a non-playing captain.

I feel I did a sincere job. I did what I thought was good for India. I am a man of conviction. Praise or criticism does not bother me. I have never had any personal likes or dislikes to-



wards any one

**On why the Indian challenge in the Davis Cup is no longer a force to reckon with.**

I think this is because the whole thing has been badly handled. In fact we should have taken advantage of the fact that the top players did not represent their countries in the Davis Cup for many years in the Seventies. I feel the reason for the decline stems from the disputes in the All-India Tennis Association and between the players and the parent body. These have not yet been settled.

**On the charge that his game was too soft.**

I don't think my game was soft. I did not serve hard enough. I admit that. That was a drawback but only on grass. I hit the ball well, my strokes were good and I had a sort of disguised power. My game was based on timing and reflexes.

**On the charge that he never won any titles abroad.**

I might not have won the Wimbledon or French or US titles. But I did win the US hard court championships, the Canadian Open and the Queen's Club tournament. Moreover, even at the French Championship I reached the quarter final more than once and reached the semi finals twice at Wimbledon.

**On whether he would have fared better today.**

Yes, I feel I would have. I was physically quite strong and would have thrived on the greater number of tournaments and generally more tennis being played today. Also most of the courts are of the synthetic surface and would have greatly helped my strokeplay.

My favourite court has always been cement, which offers a true bounce and is, in my opinion, the best surface. There is a lot of tennis nowadays being played on cement and even the current US Open is being played on this surface. I think it is going to be the main surface for tennis in the next two or three years.

**On players of his day and current players.**

I feel players of my day had to have a greater all round variety in their game. Take the following as an example. McEnroe shuns the clay court at Roland Garros and prefers cement or grass. Lendl detests grass so much that he does not even take part at Wimbledon and sticks to clay or other synthetic surfaces. This was not the case in my day. Laver won both the French and Wimbledon titles within a month, so also Emerson. They were at home on all surfaces.

**On the great players of his time.**

Obviously Laver must take pride of place. If there was one thing remarkable about him it was his temperament and his mental outlook. Plus of course he had everything a great player should have. Following him would be Hoad, Rose-

wall, Fraser and Emerson in that order.

I also played alongside greats like Drobny and even had victories over them but that was when they were well past their prime.

**On increasing indiscipline of the players.**

I think the players today enjoy too many rights. They have become rather spoilt. No wonder you get all those obscene and unseemly gestures nowadays. I feel that the rules regarding indiscipline are vague. The code of conduct should be stiffer.

**On today's top players:**

McEnroe is very talented. I don't think he has reached his peak yet. Borg is still great and I have no doubt he will be back at the top. Connors is a great triller. Vilas is good on clay. Lendl is good on any surface except grass.

But the main thing I notice about today's players is the way they reserve their best for the top tournaments. You may beat these top players in some minor events and think you have got the better of them. Don't let it fool you. In those tournaments they only play at 60 per

*John McEnroe and Chris Evert Lloyd in unfamiliar pose on the dance floor. Krishnan claims that today's top players have been pampered and that codes of conduct are not stiff enough.*



cent or 80 per cent. They reserve 100 per cent for the top tournaments and big prize money events.

One can't play one's best tennis all the time and these players know when to play at their best. There are a lot of good players in the world today but the real champs are few. The gap after the top four—Borg, McInroe, Connors and Lendl—is immense. But it was the same in my day too with the gap after the big three—Laver, Emerson and Fraser—being equally immense. Though at my peak I came after them and had victories over all of them at one time or the other. But they won the big events.

Comparing his game with that of Ramesh:

One really can't make such a comparison. He has to work harder and do better because the competition is so stiff. But I will say that when I was the same age (21) I had a better record.

On what is needed to strengthen Indian tennis:

More players in the teenage group. This will breed greater quality for out of quantity comes quality. The All India Tennis Association should think along those lines.

On the systematic manner in which his game progressed:

I was the top Indian junior in the early Fifties and the government sent me abroad when I was 15 or 16. I had an opportunity to play the best players in the world. I played against giants.

But now, everything depends on the ATP computer. Tournaments are categorised so that junior players like Vasudevan or Nandan Bal—who are good for their age—never get a chance to play top players. Vasudevan can never play Borg and Bal cannot meet McEnroe unless they break the barrier and that is a tough task.

On the tennis boom in the United States:

The coming of Harry Hopman to the US and greater prize money are two of the main reasons for this boom. Tennis is big business and is thriving on sponsorship. But the boom is now spreading to Europe and tennis is now a big business even in Eastern Europe, particularly Czechoslovakia.

On Australia's diminishing power in world tennis:

First and foremost this was because of the defection of Harry Hopman to the US in the late Sixties. He had done the most to put Australia on top in the Fifties and Sixties, and his departure meant that the father figure had gone. Then the Australian players started settling down in the US since the prize money was more in that country. The cupboard became bare. But now a new crop of players is coming up and Australia can come back as a force to reckon with.

On some of his memorable moments:

Pride of place must go to my

victory over Thomas Koch of Brazil at Calcutta in 1966 since it put India into the Challenge Round of the Davis Cup for the first time. Speaking of individual triumphs, the one most would be my win over Emerson in the Wimbledon quarter-final in 1961. I played very well and I remember that all my shots came in.

Then there was the victory over Luis Ayala of Chile in 1960 which put me in the Wimbledon semi-final for the first time. Another memorable moment was the victory over Laver at Boston in the Davis Cup inter-zone final in 1959. Then I also had a good match with Chuck McKinley in the Davis Cup inter-zone final against India at New Delhi in 1961. McKinley was runner-up to Laver at Wimbledon that year and I beat him in five sets.

On how he keeps in touch with the game he loves:

I always practise every day. Now I have started playing in veterans' tournaments abroad. These have been going on for a few years now but they are all for those over 45. Having turned 45 this year, I am eligible.

On whether he had any disappointments in his career:

No. I don't have any disappointments or regrets and I don't want to give any excuses. If I did not win Wimbledon or any major title, it is because I lacked something. One should take one's shortcomings as a sportsman.

*Krishnan vs Neale Fraser. An off-court argument during the last India-Australia Davis Cup tie when Laver deputised a decision.*



# He is not forgotten

**I**F Satyajit Ray put Indian cinema on the world map, the same can be said about Ramanathan Krishnan and Indian tennis. No other single individual has done more for any Indian sport and I doubt whether any other tennis player has done more for his country than what Krishnan did for India. In the 30 years since he made his entry into international tennis, he has served the country in various capacities—player, non-playing captain, sole selector. Behind the scenes, he has been the brain behind most of the major decisions taken by the All India Lawn Tennis Association.

True, it was Ghouse Mohammad who first made the world sit up and take notice of Indian tennis when he entered the quarter-final of Wimbledon in 1949. But he flickered all too briefly on the international scene. It was only the advent of Krishnan that gave Asian tennis a tremendous boost on the world circuit.

Krishnan's enviable record is impressive. Winner of the Junior Wimbledon Title in 1954. Twice semi-finalist at Wimbledon in 1960 and 1961. Ranked amongst the top ten players for five years, four years in a row. Seeded three times at Wimbledon, once as high as number four. One of the most formidable Davis Cup records of all time. Recipient of the Padmashree Award and the Helms Award for Best Sportsman in Asia. One of the best loved sportsmen of our times.

All these laurels rest easily on him. Now 45 and well placed in life, Krishnan cannot put an end to his love affair with tennis, which started when his father gave him his first racket about 40 years ago. He still plays the game both in India and abroad. He has kept abreast with the changes and latest trends in the game.

Talking with him is an experience one will not forget easily for his knowledge of the game is so profound. He can discuss any aspect of it with equal felicity. He is refreshingly different as far as the past generations go. Generally older people always talk of how "great" players of their days were and how "puny" the moderns are. Krishnan always speaks highly of Laver, Emerson and Fraser and also has a kind word about Borg, Connors or McEnroe.

In the Fifties when Krishnan started making his mark, his game attracted considerable world attention. It was his own inimitable brand of play. It was a style that brought back strong and vivid memories of a bygone era—the golden period of the 20's when the great touch artists Cochet, Lacoste and Borotra domin-

ated the scene. Krishnan in fact was frequently compared to Cochet. His game was based on consistently accurate ground strokes.

From the baseline would flow an unending stream of forehand and backhand shots which Krishnan used to execute effortlessly. The opponent was usually left bewildered and breathless for Krishnan hit the ball with such deception that the man on the other side of the net had no clue as to which side of the court the ball would land. It was with one such performance that he got the better of Roy Emerson—always a tough opponent—in the quarter-final at Wimbledon in 1961. Emerson was seeded fourth and Krishnan seventh. Duncan Macaulay, the eminent critic, had this to say, "most surprisingly Krishnan beat Emerson with complete ease."

"It was one of the best matches that Krishnan ever played at Wimbledon. He turned Emerson's speed to his own advantage and directed his



Krishnan and Jaideep Mukherjee in their heyday

shots to all parts of the court where Emerson wasn't." How quaintly put! and how this single sentence sums up Krishnan's mesmeric, magical game. The Wimbledon authorities themselves admitted that total attendance went up during the few years that Krishnan played at Wimbledon at his peak.

Krishnan's long Davis Cup record has been surpassed only by Italy's Petrangelo. Certainly it can be said that numerous though his individual triumphs might have been, they take only second place to his Davis Cup record. He was single-handedly responsible for India's impressive showing in these matches in the 50's and 60's. The pressure on him, because of the lack of a good second singles player or an effective doubles combination was too much.

Quite often he had to win both his singles ties and also figure prominently in the doubles as well. More than half a dozen times he brought India to the Inter-Zone finals and his proudest moment came when he spearheaded India into the Challenge Round in 1966, with a super hu-

man effort against Brazil's Thomas Koch in the decisive singles of the Inter-Zone Final at Calcutta.

Down by two sets to one and 2-5 in the fourth, Krishnan turned the tables on his rival for a truly fantastic victory. Another great showing was in Australia when it was said that the Indians would not win a single set let alone a match. Krishnan, along with Mukherjee, brought off a great upset victory over Newcombe and Roche, the Wimbledon doubles champions. He could really be called "Mr Poker Face" for there was no expression on his face as he clinically and elegantly demolished his opponents. There were no tantrums. His court behaviour was impeccable. Not once would Krishnan question a linesman's or umpire's decision.

There was a period when Krishnan was ranked only below the three Australians Laver, Emerson and Fraser. In the 1962 Wimbledon Championships, he was seeded fourth behind them and had a favourable draw. He was likely to meet Laver in the final. He however injured his ankle in a doubles match and was forced to default to John Fraser in the third round. An appreciable increase in weight and added business responsibilities saw to it that he never again made it so high in subsequent Wimbledons. But throughout the Sixties, he did make his annual pilgrimage to the "Mecca".

Superb ground strokes. A cool temperament. A never say die attitude. Impeccable court manners. These were the characteristics of Krishnan's game. In his day, he was worshipped almost as a God and had a fanatical following. But then sportsmen who are active are among the most sought after personages. However, the day they retire they are, almost overnight, forgotten.

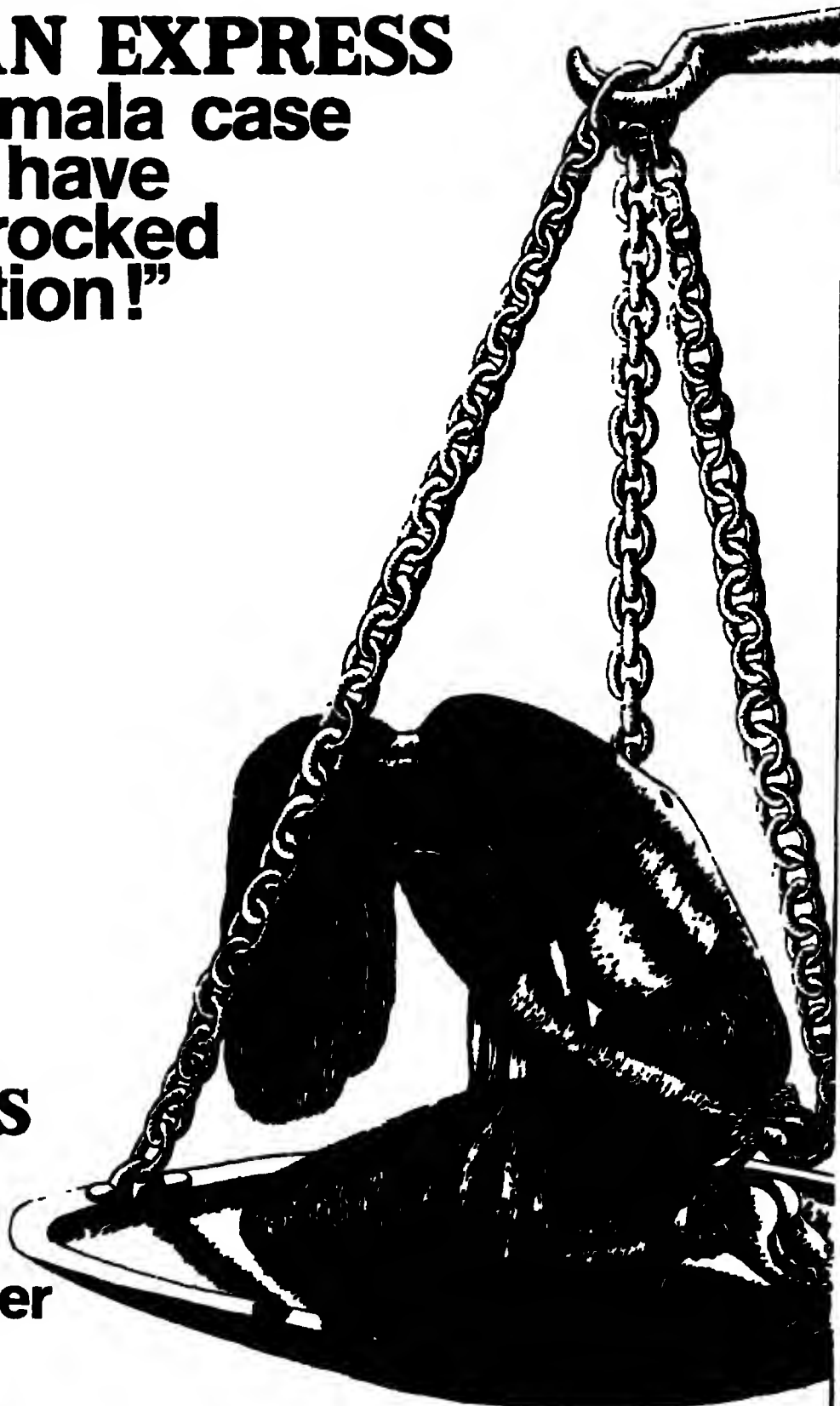
If there is one exception to this rule, it is Krishnan. Even today he is not a forgotten man. Far from it. He still signs autographs. He is still featured prominently by magazines which are eager to bring back memories of his game to a new generation who unfortunately did not see him play and even today many journals frequently interview him for his sound views on the game. He still has a lot of charisma.

Youngsters look up to him as a father figure and listen keenly to his advice and instructions. I doubt whether any sports personality enjoys the same respect and affection that Krishnan enjoys today. 20 years after he reached his peak and 13 years after he stopped playing regularly for the country. He might have stopped playing or officiating as the non-playing captain or sole selector, but at least he has made sure that there will still be a Krishnan gracing tennis courts the world over.

**PARTAB RAMCHAND**

**“But for the  
INDIAN EXPRESS  
the Kamala case  
would have  
never rocked  
the nation!”**

**INDIAN  
EXPRESS**  
It isn't  
just  
another  
newspaper



The largest circulated daily  
published simultaneously from 10 centres

# Two of a kind

PARTAB RAMCHAND

THE great debate continues. It has been going on for almost a decade now and for all you know it will go on for another decade. I refer to the issue that has been a favourite for discussion among tennis fans in the country—who was the greater player, Ramanathan Krishnan or Vijay Amritraj?

Hankly, the debate will continue till a third player, who hopefully is better than both of them, bursts upon the scene. Only that can put an end to this debate for with the facts and feats of both Krishnan and Vijay being parallel in so many ways, it is difficult to come to any definite conclusion.

First and foremost both had a rousing start to their careers. Krishnan won the Junior Wimbledon crown in 1954 at the age of 17. Then in 1956 he scored a shock victory over Drobny in the first round at Wimbledon (Drobny interestingly enough had won the Wimbledon title the same year). Krishnan won the junior version. Vijay's great year initially was 1973. Not yet 20, he won the Hong Kong Open and Volvo titles, gunning down formidable opponents in the process. He also entered the quarter-finals at Wimbledon and Forest Hills.

It was then that the great debate started and all pointed out to Vijay building upon this dream start and overhauling Krishnan in the eyes of tennis fans in this country, particularly when he was bracketed with Borg and Connors as the "ABC" of tennis. But this initial promise was never fulfilled.

Krishnan by comparison made steadier progress. He won the Queen's Club tournament in 1959 with a victory over Alex Olmedo, who was the number one seed for Wimbledon. Olmedo turned the tables on Krishnan in a fascinating third round duel at "Mecca". Later in his career Krishnan was to win the US Hard Court and the Canadian Open titles.

Krishnan made it twice to the semi-finals at Wimbledon, in 1960 and 1961. Vijay after 1973 entered the quarter-final once in 1981. Krishnan reached the quarter-finals at the French Championships more than once. Vijay has never done as well at Roland Garos, but has entered the quarter-finals of the US Open twice, something that eluded Krishnan. Vijay also has won more titles while Krishnan won only three abroad. But as Krishnan points out (see interview) there is more tennis being played these days. In addition to that Krishnan (because of business commitments) limited himself to only a select number of tournaments.

Astonishingly even their record in the Davis Cup is somewhat similar, though Krishnan who played for India from 1953 to 1969 and for a year in the mid-Seventies certainly has scored more victories. Krishnan was the chief player for India for over a decade and Vijay looks fair to follow suit. He has already been our main player for ten years now. Krishnan received about the same amount of support from Naresh Kumar, Lal and Mukherjee that Vijay has received from Anand, Shashi and Ramesh. Again each player had one notable,

similar achievement. Krishnan piloted India to the Challenge Round in 1966, and Vijay helped put India in the Davis Cup final in 1974.

To make things complete, even their game is roughly the same, based on timing, reflexes and elegance. It is more artistic than powerful and indeed both have been hailed in their respective periods as "Indian touch artistes". If Vijay certainly has had the better serve, Krishnan was surer on the volley. And both have earned a name for themselves for their pleasing manners.

## FAME HAS ITS PRICE

*Even if it's under the counter*

IT has been reported in certain sections of the Press that Nandan Bal, S. Vasudevan and Enrico Piperno have expressed their desire to turn professional after the Asian Games at Delhi. The statement made by these three players is hardly, to say the least, in other words Bal, Vasudevan and Piperno have been "amateurs" all this time.

How can this be? Over the years they have been playing prize money tournaments and winning large sums, so the question of changing over from an "amateur" to a "professional" does not arise.

Most of the tennis tournaments with any standing in India give out cash prizes. The last Nationals at Pune openly carried a winner's purse of over Rs. 10,000. Even small tournaments in Calcutta played at the Ordnance, Saturday and Tollygunge clubs award three to four thousand rupees to the winner. All tournaments played in Bombay also give cash prizes not only for the men's event but also for the juniors. Moreover, these three players all play, and do very well, on the Indian Satellite tour where prize money is awarded.

Giving away cash prizes is very good for Indian tennis as it acts as an incentive. In fact, these three "top" players (leaving aside, of course, the Amritraj brothers, Ramesh Krishnan and Sashi Menon) also go abroad and take part in tournaments. All these tournaments provide prize money.

It has been learnt from reliable sources that Piperno pulled in over Rs. 30,000 last year. Bal and Vasudevan have been doing even better on the circuit and their earnings must be nearing the half lakh mark. How is it then that they are not officially professional? These players have to sign and collect their money after the tournaments and so this income goes directly into their pockets.

On foreign tours however the All-India Lawn Tennis Association might accept the money and then give some of it to the players. When Akhtar Ali used to take players on foreign trips, the money earned would go into the AILTA coffers with the players being given only an allowance. Is the AILTA still following this policy? One is quite certain that as far as tournaments played in India are concerned, the players collect the money directly, while tournaments played abroad may still come under the old AILTA policy.

Only this association can enlighten us with regard to the difference between an amateur and professional in India. But it must be said that for practical purposes Bal, Vasudevan and Piperno can be classified as professionals. If this is the case, then how is it that the AILTA under the secretarship of Mr. Dilip Doss has selected these players to represent India in the forthcoming Asian Games? Has this been done only to save the face of the AILTA which has gone to the extent of using "professionals" to bring India glory in the Asian? And this in spite of the fact that only amateurs are allowed to take part in the Asian Games.

Whether or not that matter doing well at the Asian is not—the AILTA should realise that it is all about glory in sport. Surely Bal and Vasudevan would have been dropped and youngsters given a chance. These youngsters—the Bhambhani, P. K. Ramesh and Jayant Rikhye—are amateurs in the strictest sense of the word and playing in the Asian would do them a world of good.

The All-India Lawn Tennis Association may reply that the players they have chosen are all amateurs. Who then is a professional? How much must one earn to be called an amateur? These are questions only the AILTA can answer. But even if the answer is that it is no use pulling the wool over people's eyes and saying that Bal, Vasudevan and Piperno do not perform for monetary

reasons, there are two ways about it.



# THREE'S A CROWD

JIMMY CONNORS may be several months clear of his nearest rivals on the ATP computer, but the reality of it is that there is little—in terms of talent—to set him apart from his two closest rivals, John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl. And let's not forget that they have a host of title-hungry fellow professionals snapping at their heels every inch of the way.

Prime among them, of course, is Guillermo Vilas who has had a remarkable run of successes this year. One cannot help wondering if his resurgence has anything to do with the fact that he has switched over to a Slazenger mid-size racket for the first time in his life. The Argentine took three titles on the trot, beating Jimmy Connors in successive finals of Grand Prix tournaments at Rotterdam and Milan and then putting paid to Lendl at Monte Carlo. In addition, he also picked up two more GP titles at Buenos Aires and Madrid, once again beating Lendl in the final of the latter.

But when it comes down to brass tacks and you're talking in terms of the top three in the world, you don't have to look further than Connors, Lendl and McEnroe.

When you come to think of it, the rebirth of Connors wasn't really that much of a surprise. He had sounded a warning at the £95,000 Benson and Hedges Championship at Wembley in 1981, when he beat McEnroe in the final in a five set struggle. The older Connors had not won a tournament in eight months when he arrived at Wembley, McEnroe, on the other hand, had not lost a single one of his 19 matches in the same arena. Although McEnroe was accused by a voice section of the Press of having thrown the match away, the fact was that Connors had ended his winning streak.

And if you remember a player by the name of Connors defeated McEnroe in the Wimbledon final this year. Again in five sets. Fate has not been kind to McEnroe this year. His only victory of any importance has been the Pro Indoor title, which he took at Philadelphia. On the other side of the scale, he failed in the Masters just the WCT final to Lendl and finally lost his Wimbledon crown to competitor and old rival Connors.

Lendl has had an ankle injury that kept him out of the game for six weeks, and put a damper on his preparation for his title defence at the All England Club, but if there were any doubts about his ability to stay on court against a formidable opponent for any length of time, they were surely put to rest when he pulled out all the stops in his six-hour defeat of French Open champion Mats Wilander, in the deciding match of their Davis Cup encounter.



McEnroe proves his talent on the guitar

## OBSCENE BUT NOT HEARD

### Playing the baiting game

NASTASE was a master in the art of baiting his opponents. As a matter of fact, he was probably the first professional to perfect the art of cross-court slang-ing. And that was not all—remember the time he changed his shorts on court? Yes, on court. He is also credited with having popularised the one-finger salute.

Unfortunately for the game of tennis, however, there are plenty of pros on the circuit today who are emulating him, prime among them being the notorious Fritz Buehning. There is a standing joke about him: fellow professionals claim that a brand new dictionary of obscenities could be compiled if anyone cared to listen to him long enough.

And there is another school of thought. Certain critics claim that John McEnroe is not far behind. But he makes sure of something: when he uses four letter words, he ensures that the umpire is out of earshot.

But McEnroe seems to be in all sorts of problems against Lendl. The first sign that the Czech had caught up with the former Number One came at Dallas, in the World Championship Tennis final on the indoor Supreme court surface. McEnroe took only fourteen games from his opponent as Lendl marched away with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory. Lendl had also straight-setted McEnroe 6-4, 6-2 in the semi final of the Masters, which he went on to win. These two matches in particular posted the warning that Lendl would be around at the top for some time.

It is said that McEnroe has always respected Lendl's potential, from the time they first faced each other on opposite ends of a tennis court. That was way back in 1980, at the US Open, although it was a match that the American won comfortably enough. Then, the following year, Lendl beat him in straight sets at the French Open and later in a Davis Cup match at Flushing Meadow.

Lendl, since then, has established a more or less regular pattern of mastery over McEnroe, overcoming him on three surfaces: carpet, cement and clay. And just to rub salt in the wound, he stopped McEnroe even as the latter was going for his fourth successive US Open title.

A lot of people have openly sneered at Lendl's claim that he is Number One and McEnroe is one of them. He has made no secret of the fact that no player can claim to be Number One unless he has won a Grand Slam tournament and certainly one cannot disagree with McEnroe on that score. But even though Lendl has not any of the big four—Wimbledon, US Open, French Open and the Australian Open—he cannot be disregarded.

Although he has a fairly dismal record against Connors, Lendl takes pleasure in grinding McEnroe into the dust. An anecdote would suffice to prove the point. In their long-awaited WCT final clash, when he was making the then Wimbledon champion look rather ordinary, heaced McEnroe twice, forcing the American to stand way behind the baseline. Lendl noted this and made an ass of his opponent by leaving him flat footed with an underarm lollipop serve.

McEnroe, outraged, complained to umpire Ron Bennett that he was not ready. But Bennett would have none of it. "I was watching you and you looked ready to me" was his rejoinder.

Connors, Lendl, McEnroe. It will be interesting to see how long they remain the ruling triumvirate in world tennis.

DAVID McMAHON





IVAN LENDL  
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

## Round one to Pakistan

**Abdul Qadir proved it once again while Zaheer chipped in with the bat to send Australia to a humiliating defeat. A CORRESPONDENT observes**

**T**HAT countries are difficult to beat in cricket, though not impossible on their own soils was amply proved when Pakistan took on Australia in the first Test at Karachi and successfully, too. Their emergence as a super power, closely timed with Imran's dawn as a captain of major international ranking, could not have come at a better time when the Indians are just a month away from living across the barbed partition. And Pakistan took yet another step towards proving the point, that had it not been for the umpires in Blighty the series might have been won and cricket suzerainty, more or less, confirmed. They beat Australia, sans Lillee and Greg Chappell by a margin of nine wickets that at one stage had looked imminent to spill over to an innings.

The first day ended with Pakistan clearly making definite designs to win the match. Australia being reduced in their opening venture to 218 for half the side gone. And a wicket shorn of grass seemed to have everything in it to prove beneficial to the batting averages but Australia seemed determined to be proof to the contrary. With their score yet to register itself Graeme Wood was walking back almost as immediately as he had come in, caught by Bari off Imran Khan.

It looked an ominous start alright and Australia would never have quite recovered but Laird and Dyson looked assiduous enough and for most part of the first Test session of the series Pakistan's attack seemed to have been blunted. And true enough their next success was in no way related to the bowling. Laird, at 71 with lunch and Australia five minutes apart, hooped down for a quickie but the incoming throw beat him to it. Scampering down, he had found Dyson rooted and spent for it. Laird had made 42.

But the probing of another break through kept continually being foiled as Hughes, the following batsman and captain, and Dyson stuck gamely to the immediate task in hand and it was only after tea that the 98 run alliance was broken, Dyson at 87 bowled by the left arm spinner Qasim, yearning for a break in after summery England.

Australia failed to hold on to the advantage of the day after that Hughes went, caught by Bari courtesy Qasim for 54 and Abdul Qadir, criticised for his selection in some sections quite trenchantly, chipped in with his first wicket. He had Greg Ritchie caught by Haroon Rashid with the debutant only on four. Both the left handers, Border and Marsh, saw out the day and still there was nothing that suggested that Australia would not be able to sit pretty by the time the Karachi sun sank below on the second evening.

And by the time the muezzin's call had summoned the faithfuls the following day, Australia had clearly muffed it. The two overnight of Australia's sentinel had looked set to carry the fight to lunch and beyond but planning on victory's lines looked clearly disturbed when Naqqash son of the editor of the *Lahore Times* found his own way into the headlines. He tore through with four wickets in just five overs, commendable really, though his 23 runs temporarily jarred.

Naqqash had Marsh bowled for 19 and then immediately next ball had Bruce Yardley going back, caught Miandad. Then in his second over, Naqqash seemed poised for a hat-trick that never was but he came within shying distance again, this time having Ray Bright caught by Haroon off the fifth of his next over and Lawson going, caught behind, next ball. Again it was not to be.

The last of Australia, the surviving Border and Thomson smote vigorously and 29 were added in a jiffy before the latter walked out to Qadir, missed and was naturally stumped. Australia finished out at 284, Border playing himself unbeaten for 55 and Naqqash returning with four for 61 and Qadir and Qasim sharing an equal number between themselves. The spin king was yet to call for the bow. Everything looked like being resolved in the second innings.

The most intriguing part of the whole thing was Imran's solitary success, though there was always the consolation for him that 23 overs and 38 runs can never be deemed as a poor bowling ratio.

And Pakistan, embarking on their retaliatory, seemed to convince critics that the pitch could never be blamed for Pakistan's batting moderation—if ever it was. Their bowlers had done it. For they nullified Australia's advances to dock in the evening at 168 for two wickets, though not entirely without a Pakistani day of controversies—albeit minor—and unusualities.

Murmurings were already on the rise by the time Mansoor Akhtar had played Thomson to Bright in the gully ungrounded and the umpire had to seek a consultation because he had pleaded unsightedness arising from the players' movements. The batsman was given out at 32 but if that had not been enough for umpire Mahboob Shah then more tuggings at the heat strings were in store.

He refused an Australian clamouring for a caught behind against Mohsin Khan a couple of balls prior to tea and the 6,000 strong crowd, catalysed, sprayed stones and abuse as the Aussies trooped in for the interval.

But there was more to come and Mohsin Khan—not entirely forgetting Mahboob Shah—were yet to do with. After he had seen out the Australian new ball salvo, Mohsin seemed hooked for bed and break fast but he played the last of the day, a Thomson delivery forward, found the ball spinning towards his stumps and in a reflex move bent and threw the ball away from the danger site. The players appealed for a handled the ball decision and the umpire could not but agree. Mohsin at first hung around while the others receded, half unaccepting and half confused, perhaps, but both reasons flammable for a crowd easily excitable. Nothing really happened but it underlined the importance of post-play carelessness. It will make more sense if you happen to remember what Tony Greig did to Alvin Kalicharan in the West Indies, some Caribbean summers ago.

But the crowd had its veil on the third day. While Pakistan seemed reconciled to a snail shift coursing the crowd pelted as much rubbish, inclusive of oranges and onions, as could have made a Karachi grocer's shelves look post-harvest and stacked. To heighten the problem yobboes sniped open the wire meshing around the ground and diffused onto the playing area with Kim Hughes ordering his players in. That called for a 15 minute adjournment of crossfire before lunch, every ticking making victory and Pakistan look further apart.

Finally, the players decided to make another appearance, the rowdies returned and Hughes and followers vanished again. The public address system soared into higher decibels this time, undoubtedly with an eye to punishment, and suddenly order was restored.



That should have given Pakistan's batsmen the imperus to step out of their chrysalis but they didn't. All through the day they went forth by only 162 runs and lost four wickets in return. And though Zaheer made 91 and Rashid, after switching on his inspiration, scored 82, the race was yet to materialise.

By the stumps on the fourth day Abdul Qadir and Pakistan had done it. Australia had slipped to 123 for seven wickets and were struggling now to save the game with Pakistan, secreted away from any disaster imaginable, had declared their first innings at 419 for nine.

Pakistan had resumed at 330 and it was Mudassar who had taken on the responsibility akin to that once shared by Old Man River. While Imran had gone for just one, and Naqqash stumped while chasing Bright, he had striven to provide some iron to the middle order. Not that he had succeeded very greatly there for when the ball had turned older Mudassar and Qadir met each other in the middle, exchanged a few words and from then Hughes was back to scratching his hair and the stubble underlining his honest chin.

Finally, Imran sought to declare with Mudassar still there on 55 and

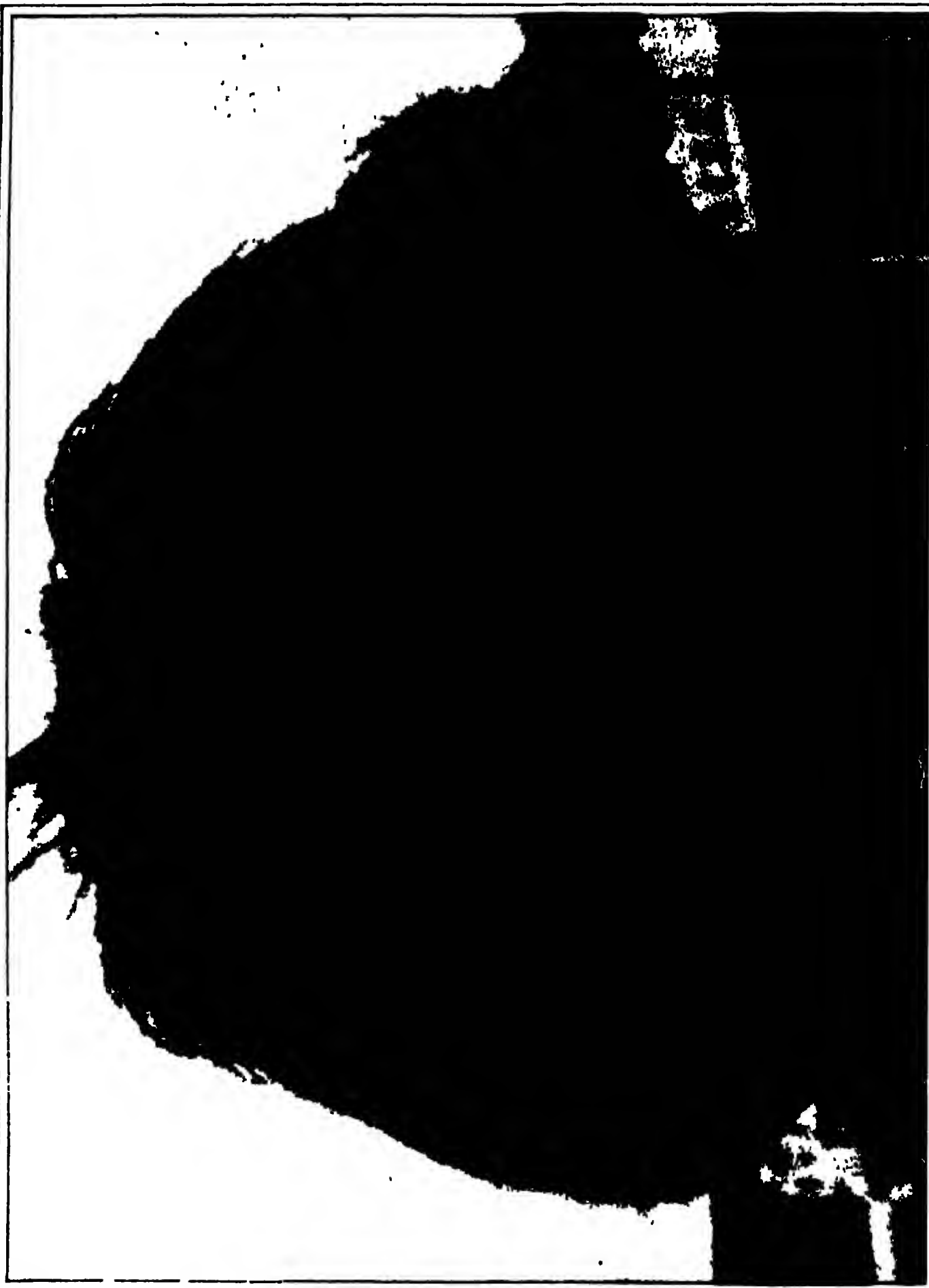
Qasim chipping with a couple. No two Aussies that day seemed more chuffed than Bright and Lawson, the former tethering the Pakis in the dark and the other, the quickie, striking a length. Bright had figures of 36-8-96-3 and Lawson an impressive mathematics of 39-10-93-2.

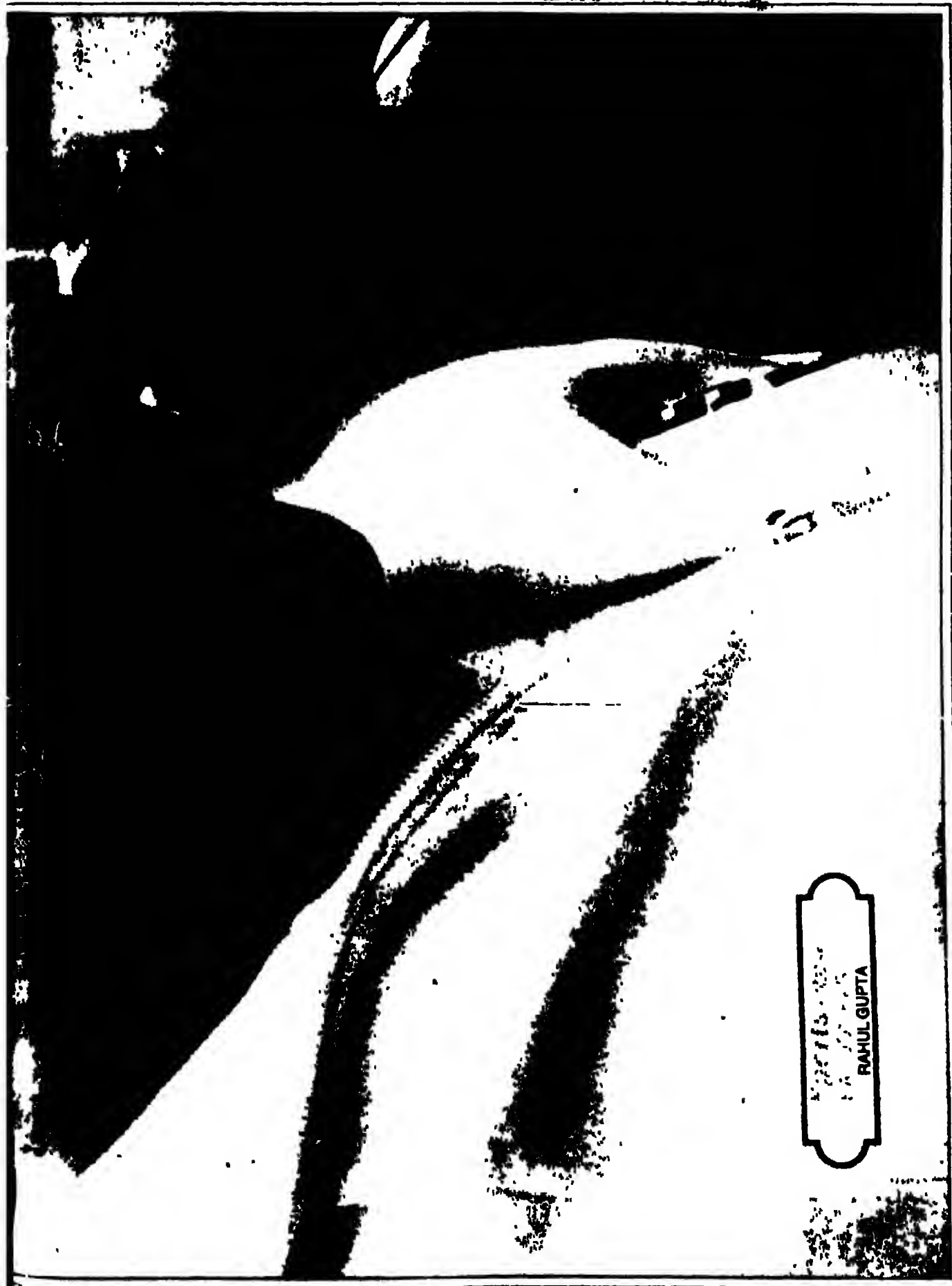
If Australia had found reasons for contentment on a terrifying job indifferently done then the kill-joy was a tea break away. For Abdul Qadir, beginning with a spell of three wickets for seven in five overs, extended the range of his repertoire and damage to five for 44 in a score of overs. By the end of the day's play the Australian wheeze was distinctly pronounced. Seven wickets for 123, which had once been 77 for as many wickets, did not look good at all.

Imran as usual had taken opener Laird at 10 to clinch the break through. Then Qadir, pitched in early, had Wood going, caught by Malik and Dusen was bowled for six. The slide had begun. Border went, caught by Malik again and Hughes topped the day of Australian diffidence by being caught by Bari for a mere 14. Qasim wrapped up Ritchie, clean bowled, and Qadir, all flight and nesmer interspersed by the googly, finished the day by bowling Yardley

The fifth day was a mere formality. Though Qadir captured no more wickets, Qasim and Imran split each between themselves and Australia went down for 179. At 13 after adding 64 with Bright, Mar went lbw, victim to Imran. Lawson the next batsmen, was the prey. Miandad's alert anticipation close the wicket. The batsman had played defensively to Qadir, then overstepped and by the time he had maintained intentions to get back the bails had fallen, run out. Thomson looked like hitting hard though never for long and, when Bari had held tight, Qasim, Pakistan had done it.

On two counts this Test match despite some untidy scenes of indiscipline, will, perhaps, be remembered. It was refreshing to find Qadir—a leg spinner at that—being selected as the Man of the Match opportunity enough for Bill Frind to delve into his minutiae to tell the last time when one of Qadir's had done so. The other aspect, remember, and one hopes the other captains of today will give a bearing was Hughes' attitude after the game, blaming neither the umpires nor the Karachi wicket for the humble. Cool breeze in a cricket world of changing





RAHUL GUPTA

India-Sri Lanka one-day international

# Dias holds pride of place but....

PARTAB RAMCHAND reports from Bangalore

INDIA completed a grand clean sweep of their three one-day internationals against Sri Lanka, when they defeated them by six wickets in the final game at Bangalore on 26 September. India had won the earlier encounters at Amritsar and Delhi.

It was sweet revenge for the home team who had suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Sri Lanka in the 1979 World Cup. It was for the first time that the teams were meeting since then and India wiped out the earlier memory by their fine show in the three games this time. Their superiority was never in doubt and, in fact, they seemed to have gone from strength to strength. From all accounts the victory at Bangalore was the most facile, a fact that is easily conveyed by the victory margin—six wickets and with 10.4 overs to spare.

India were again without Gavaskar who on the morning of the match expressed his inability to play because of a sprained neck. Gavaskar may be indispensable but his not playing is hardly a handicap in the one-day matches, given his record. Kapil Dev, who led India in the games at Amritsar and Delhi, was, thus, again in charge and India's third successive victory was in a way a personal triumph for him. He led the side well, kept things well under his control and altogether was an inspiring figure on the field. He is obviously the Indian captain of the future.

Sri Lanka's batting lingered almost throughout the tour on two players—Dias and Mendis. And at Bangalore, too, there was no exception to this rule. The two figured in the highest stand of the game—57 for the third wicket. But Mendis' contribution this time was restricted to 23. And Dias had to plough a lonely furrow.

Dias' legitimate place is at number three but on this tour he has virtually been an opening batsman. It was the same at Bangalore. He came in when the shine was very much there. Warnapura had fallen in the third over but this did not in any way curb his strokeplay. Essentially an attacking batsman, he kept striking at the bowling with shots of

power and precision.

Wettimuny helped him add 47 runs for the second wicket and then came that stand with Mendis. The sudden fall of Mendis, however, meant that Dias had to virtually carry the rest of the batting on his shoulders. He bent his head down to the task but now and then kept the runs coming and never spared the loose delivery. Fortune favours the brave and Dias took some risks that came off.

Madugalle helped Dias in increasing the score by 51 runs in a fourth wicket stand and then came the brightest part of the Sri Lanka innings, with De Mel and Dias slapping on 36 runs off four overs. De Mel provided the fireworks. First he leapt out and lofted Binny into the Club House stand. And a little later lofted Doshi. This time the ball flew into the Members Stand. He however, became turned ambitious and was bowled next ball.

Dias had meanwhile, reached his century. But after De Mel had fallen no one stayed with him long enough and with seven wickets down, Dias went for wild swipes. Finally, in the penultimate over of the innings, he lifted Kapil Dev and Srikanth took the catch at long on. Dias' was indeed a brave effort. He had made 121 out of 220, faced 144 balls and hit eleven of them to the fence.

A total of 233 could never be beyond India's reach, keeping in mind that they had overtaken a Lankan total of 277 at Delhi. And with the irrepressible Srikanth quickly into his stride there was never any doubt that India would notch up their third successive victory. Very soon in the Indian innings the only debate was the margin of victory.

Binny and Srikanth hammered 34 runs off 5.2 overs when the former was run out. He steered John to De Mel at third man and the batsmen completed a single. Srikanth was busy watching De Mel while Binny like a policeman with his stop sign came charging down. His run out was then a formality.

Vengsarkar joined Srikanth but was forced to play only a supporting role for the 90 minutes he was there.

For in the meantime, Srikanth blazed forth with dazzling strokes. If the ball was pitched up, he drove powerfully and handsomely with that free, flowing style of his. If it was short, he pulled and hooked with gusto and the result was almost always a boundary. He went even further, hitting Warnapura for a straight six and then lifting De Silva for another one, this time over mid off. As in a typical Srikanth innings, there were also those sudden rushes of blood consisting of careless swipes. Some strokes were not well connected and there were some near misses. The near capacity crowd—about 40,000—obviously enjoyed the batting.

Vengsarkar's batting, by comparison, looked commonplace but now and then one did see some elegant drives that only he is capable of. He spent a long time getting his eye in but once he did, he, too, went for the bowling. But he could not employ the bustling methods with the same success that Srikanth had. He essayed a big hit at De Mel but could only achieve a skier, which was converted into a well judged catch by Dias at extra cover. Vengsarkar's 42 was made off 59 deliveries and he hit three boundaries.

It is a tribute to Srikanth that even a player like Kapil Dev found it difficult to force the pace and remain at the crease. He did hit a four and a six off successive balls from De Mel, but two balls later tried to repeat the trick and was caught at long off.

Srikanth pursued the tactics with far greater success. His 92 had come in a stay of two hours. He had faced only 86 balls and hit eleven fours and two sixes. He had scored 57 and 95 in the first two matches. And it did seem conceivable that he would go one better this time. But he then went for a lusty square cut at De Silva, gave himself too much room for the stroke and left his stumps exposed. The upshot was that his off stump was disturbed. "I must cut out that shot," Srikanth told me later. "It has got me out many times this season."

Srikanth left around the halfway mark. So masterfully had he done his job that the score was already 160 and only 74 runs needed to be got. "Srikanth beat us," Mr. Schaffter had said while referring to the Amritsar and Delhi games. He didn't perhaps, have anything else to add after Bangalore.

Kapil Dev was out at 177. But the remaining 57 runs were got by Ashok Malhotra and Yashpal Sharma in a comparatively quiet and unspectacular fashion. Both found runs difficult to come by initially but they soon settled down and pierced the field time and again with drives and rasping cuts. All was finished in the 40th over.



# My Madras Test 97 was the best I have played

Roy Dias talks to PARTAB RAMCHAND

**M**ANY teams have come to India with two batsmen of great reputations. But not every time have they lived up to expectations. The exceptions are few. One can remember Weekes and Wakcott of the 1948-49 West Indian side, Sobers and Kanhai of the West Indian side ten years later, and Harvey and O'Neill of the Australian side of 1959-60. By their exploits in India, certainly Mendis and Dias can take their places along with these illustrious predecessors.

Watching Dias bat on this Indian tour has been a revelation. Normally, an attacking batsman's technique can at times be faulted. But his technique is almost perfect. He leaves no gaps between the bat and pad. He sees the ball very early and has remarkable reflexes. The best sight from the visitor's point of view during the entire tour was in seeing Dias driving. The bat came down straight in a perfect arc and whether it was directed towards cover or mid off, mid on or mid wicket, the ball almost flew to the boundary. That is not to say that he could not play other strokes. With all his attacking skill Dias plays strictly according to the textbook. A Srikanth he is not, though if the situation warrants he does improvise. He is able to adapt himself to any given situation. In the first innings in the Test he scored 60 off 110 balls. But his second innings 97 was made off two deliveries less. His 121 at Bangalore was a typical one-day knock, despite the grim situation right through the innings. He faced just 144 balls.

How Dias came to play cricket itself is an interesting story. Idolising his elder brother, a first-class soccer player from a Colombo college, he naturally followed in his footsteps and decided to give all his attention to this sport. But at the age of 10 he found that his new school did not have soccer as one of its games. So he turned to cricket.

In reality, he has virtually been the opening batsman. Sri Lanka has invariably lost a wicket when the shine is still on—this was very true even in India—but he has not allowed this to affect his graceful batting. He has, in fact, been the country's most consistent batsman, but in a most elegant manner. Among the Sri Lanka players, he has

earned the most praise of late both in Sri Lanka and overseas. In England last year he made 608 runs at an average of 40.5. And his record since Sri Lanka started playing Test matches is second to none. Not even the mercurial Mendis has been able to match his figures. He started off his Test career with an inauspicious duck but made a brilliant 77 in the second innings and since then has never looked back. Before coming to India he was Sri Lanka's highest run-getter with 372 runs from four matches at an average of 46.50. He became the second Sri Lanka player to get a century by scoring 109 against Pakistan at Lahore. He has maintained the top position after the Indian trip and his figures now after five Tests stand at 529 runs at 52.90. Just for greater measure, he also scored centuries in successive one-day matches—a rare feat indeed.

Dias is 30 now (born October 18, 1952). He is fit, keen and skilful. With all his natural gifts there is no reason to believe that he won't be Sri Lanka's kingpin of their batting for some years to come. Married for the last five years to a girl who followed his cricket career from the time she was a little girl, Dias recently joined the famous Maharaja's Organisation to further his cricket career. That's ambition for you. Good as he is, he still wants to get better. That should be a comforting thought for the Sri Lankans.

**SPORTSWORLD** Your 97 in the Madras Test was a highly acclaimed innings. How would you rank it?

**ROY DIAS**, Yes, even I think it was the best innings I have ever played. I came in at a critical stage. We were 220 runs behind and had lost our first second-innings wicket in the opening over. But I had no problems with the bowling and went straightaway for my shots, all of which came off.

**SW**: Nothing it seemed would stop you from reaching your hundred. Your dismissal was quite sudden. How did it come about?

**RD**: I had made up my mind to get the three remaining runs needed for my hundred in singles. I went for the cut but that particular ball from Shukla was a googly which I misread.

Also, I guess, I played a little too early.

**SW**: You have had two centuries in one-day matches on this tour—a rare feat. Which do you rank the better?

**RD**: I suppose the one at Bangalore because I played a lone hand. I am essentially an attacking batsman but after the fall of Duleep (Mendis) I knew there was little batting to come and so I put my head down and played a responsible knock. When you do make 121 out of a total of 233, it does feel nice.

**SW**: You have impressed everyone by your attacking skill. Where you always like this or were you at any time a defensive batsman?

**RD**: As far as I can remember, I have always believed in going for my shots and I particularly enjoy driving.

**SW**: What is your opinion on the wickets in this country?

**RD**: They are a bit on the slow side. But the Madras wicket was easily the best pitch. It was a beauty. We would have batted on three more days on that track. The next best would be the one at Bangalore.

**SW**: You have got runs in one-day games and a five-day Test. It is quite rare to get runs so consistently in both types of matches, which are so different.

**RD**: Yes, I guess I am able to adapt my natural style which is better for the one-day game than for the longer five-day match.

**SW**: Going back to the Madras Test, you did experience some difficulty against Doshi initially but then came out on top gradually and played him confidently.

**RD**: I guess, I am indebted to Vishwanath for that. In the first innings even though I got 60 I must admit that I was not very comfortable against Doshi. I was trying to hit him against the spin to the on side. On the next day, during the dinner given by the Cricket Control Board, Vishwanath advised me to play Doshi straight instead of across. These were the tactics I employed in the second innings and they came off rather well. I thought. Thank you, Vishy!

**SW**: Did you model your play after any batsman?

**RD**: I don't know about that but I have always admired Vivian Richards for his shots on the leg side. I have also liked watching Zaheer Abbas, Vishwanath and Gavaskar.

**SW**: Who is the fastest bowler that you have faced?

**RD**: I reckon that would be Imran Khan. He moves the ball very well and late and can be pretty dangerous, too!

**SW**: And the best spinners?

**RD**: Among the present lot, Underwood and Doshi. Of course, your spin-quartet—Bedi, Chandra, Prasanna and Venkat—was the greatest.

**SW**: What are your future plans?

**RD**: To serve Sri Lankan cricket for as long as I can.



NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

**IFA SHIELD**

# Outstation teams outclassed

As in the previous years Calcutta teams dominated this year's tournament. Mohammedan Sporting pulled off a sensational victory over League champions East Bengal, while Mohun Bagan brushed aside the challenge of Bombay Harwood League champions Mahindras

**I**S the IFA Shield going the way of the Beighton Cup? It seems there is a difference. While the Indian Football Association is financially well off, the Bengal Hockey Association is impoverished. Nonetheless, the BHA somehow manages to get outstation team for the Beighton Cup, but what explanation can the IFA give when its invitees are mediocre?

Prior to the Shield the IFA boasts

that it is obtaining big teams. But as the tournament progresses, some of the star teams cry off due to "unavoidable circumstances". In a way, the organisers are lucky that the best outfits, namely the Big Three belong to Calcutta and therefore guarantee a good amount from gate receipts.

One line of reasoning as to why the better teams bypass the tournament is that the IFA is not willing to

provide better 'incentives'. This may be the cause for the last minute withdrawal of JCT Phagwara and Vasco. Or was it that both the outstation sides refused to play the clusters in the districts? Some of the better known teams that played in the districts expressed displeasure at the fact that they were required to qualify for the tournament proper.

While Calcutta's three big clubs were given direct entry into the quarter-finals, Bombay's Mafatlal (last year's Shield semi-finalist) had to qualify from the clusters. This was humiliating to a certain extent because the Phagwara outfit found a berth straight into the last eight. That, Mafatlal made their exit in the pre-quarters at the hands of BNR is incidental. These problems notwithstanding, the IFA can take the credit for giving the districts the chance to organise soccer matches and see top players in action.

The best among the visiting teams was the Bombay outfit Mahindra and Mahindra, which had no trouble eliminating George Telegraph in the last 16 stage. That could conceivably have had problems against JCT but the latter withdrew.

Other teams like Gorkha Brigade, CRPF, Neemuch, Lucknow's Central Command, Jamshedpur SA, Cuttack Combined and Kamptee Colliery of Madhya Pradesh were eliminated from the clusters.

Mohammedan Sporting returned to the fray after a lapse of a year. Last year's league champions expressed their inability to participate in 1981 because of injuries. This year, during the IFA Shield tournament the black-and-whites had to shuttle between Calcutta and Gauhati because of the Boidolui Trophy which they lost to Dempo.

Among the three Bombay outfits, Air India was the first to bow out when Mohammedan SC star Iranian Majid Basker etched up the second hat-trick in the quarter-final encounter (the first hat-trick in the tournament was scored by Gorkha Brigade's Indai Bahadur Limbo against Malda DSA at Malda). Much was expected of the Air India Mohammedan SC match but the wily Majid nailed them in style. The Tata team was the next to make its exit against East Bengal in the quarters. But the Bombay side was forced out of the tournament even before it took the field. In an IFA circular to Mohammedan Sporting it was stated that the semi-final between East Bengal and Mohammedan SC would be played as an exhibition match on 27 September on the Mohun Bagan ground. There can be no better example of the IFA's carelessness. To a certain extent, this had an adverse effect on the Tata team. Spectators expected a great deal, but in an otherwise mediocre match, Kartick Sett netted the all-important goal to enable his side to meet Mohammedan Sporting in the semi.



Tata's Koshi moves to intercept Mohun Bagan's Bose during the quarter-final match which East Bengal won

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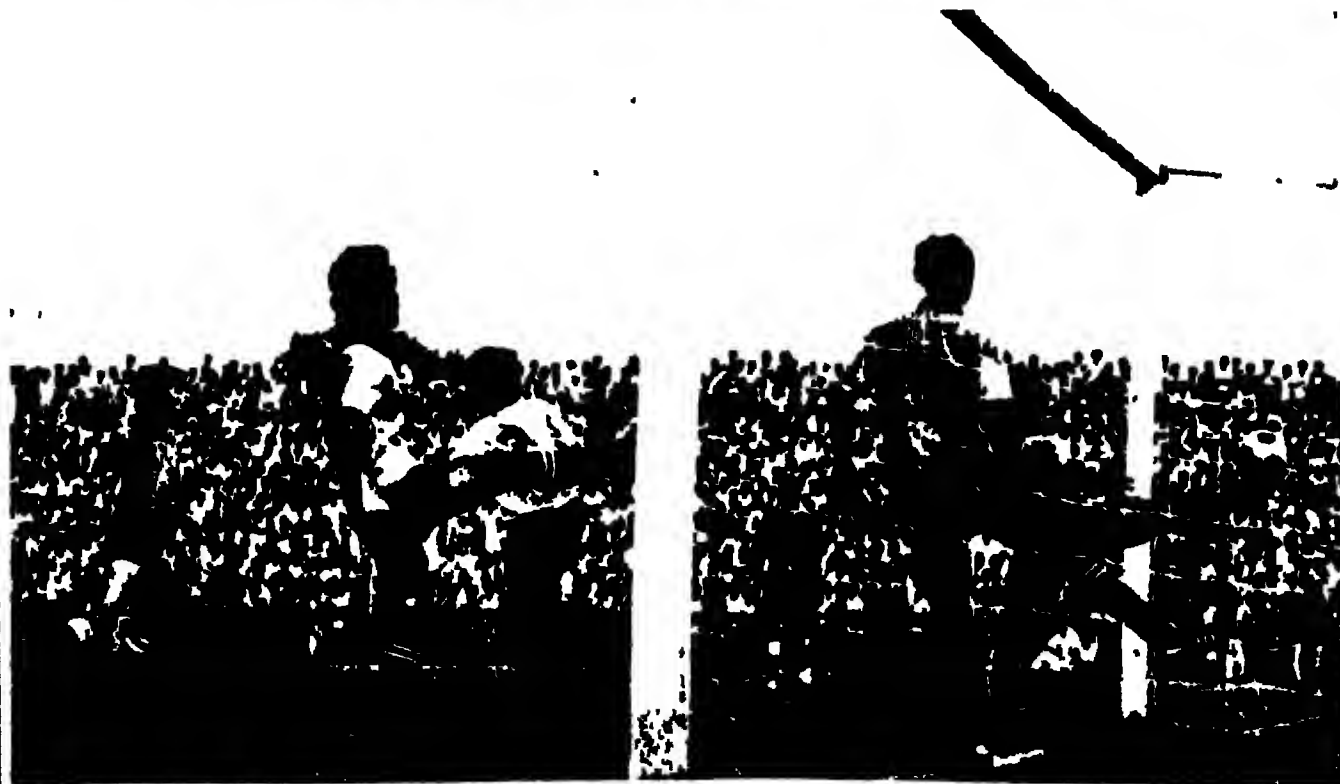
It is not always the performance that counts. Goal decides matches. And in the first of the semi-finals, between East Bengal and Mohammedan S C there was hardly anything to write home performance-wise. Both teams had an equal number of chances. East Bengal dominated the exchanges in the first half and came close to scoring and though the black-and-whites retaliated, they lacked sharpness. East Bengal took full advantage of the vital midfield because of Khabazi's shabby display which forced his colleague Debashis Mishra to perform at peak efficiency. Had Khabazi done better, the forwards would have had more punch.

For the first 25 minutes, East Bengal pounded the rival defence and in the process Arup Das lost two opportunities, the sort of which are rarely seen in such encounters. After these two misses, East Bengal piled on the pressure but Kartick Sett's appalling performance ruined almost all the moves, while Subir Sarker had the pace but lacked finish. Swapn Routh was very sincere in midfield but he looked off colour while Amalraj, apart from a superb 30-yard shot, was off form. In the defence, Balaji Mukherjee and Chinmoy Chatterjee did their job well, but Tarun Dey turned out to be the day's best performer.

Mohammedan S C came back on the scene after halftime and Majid was in his element. However, the way Tarun Dey—who made his big match debut—bottled up the Iranian, earned the former the applause.



Mohammedan S C goalkeeper Pratap Ghosh stretches fully trying to save Pulek Biswas's penalty kick



Kartick Sett scores against Tata

of the crowd. In his 110 minutes of play he made very few mistakes. Goalkeeper Tapash Chakraborty was confident under the bar but he made one mistake that almost cost the team dearly when Debashis Ray found the mark. However, referee Mr. K. Moolty was quick to blow for an infringement.

Pratap Ghosh was instrumental in guiding Mohammedan S.C. to the final after eleven years. He was as confident as his counterpart from the start till the tie breaker. Except for Debashis Ray the four others, Moudul Islam, Musheer Ahmed, Anudev Das and Majid converted perfectly their penalty shots while East Bengal's best shot came from Chinmoy Chatterjee. Mohammedan S.C. meets Mohun Bagan in the final.

**T**he green and maroon shirted Calcutta outfit who are the holders of the Federation Cup salvaged some of their lost prestige when after a disappointing show at the Calcutta League they entered the final of the IFA Shield brushing aside the challenge of Bombay's Hurlwood League champions by three goals to nil. This win gives them the opportunity of trying to win the Shield outright for six years on the trot.

Mahindra and Mahindra looked a tired lot when they took the field against Shyam Thapa's boys. The latter had to wait till nine minutes

before lemon time to go into the lead. However, there was never any doubt that the Calcutta team would win as they were superior in all departments of the game. Subrata Bhattacharya the Bagan stopper was a cut above the rest and along with Satyant Ghosh nullified the few attempts the Bombay team made. Mahindras played the 4-3-3 system while Mohun Bagan played Gautam Sarkar and Bikash Panigrahi as linkmen with Amitava Mukherjee being used as a defensive winger. Mukherjee was a little off colour on this day but did make amends when he scored a gem of a goal to take his side ahead. Keeping his cool he pulled the ball onto his left foot after which he found the top left hand corner of the net.

Krishanu Dev the Bagan striker, a wonderful ball player but seemed to be goal shy, and should have scored a goal or two on this day. Shyam Thapa tried very hard throughout the match and was rewarded when he scored his side's second goal. Gautam Sarkar scored from a typical free kick from thirty yards giving goalkeeper A. Pereira no chance. The Mahindra custodian, however, had a good match plucking the ball cleanly from the air on many occasions.

For some explicable reason Sumant Sengupta who was brought on late in the second half got into a tiff with

Raft the Mahindra left back bringing to an end a match which otherwise was played in the best of spirits.

## MOHAMMEDAN SPORTING

**M**oved their way into the semi-finals by routing Air India 3-0 in the quarter final. The hero of the day was Majid Baskar who made an impressive comeback from his relatively poor form this season by scoring a superb hat-trick. The other Iranian, Jamshed Nasiri, who along with the former had most of the time been under fire for their indifferent performances in the recently concluded league championships, also played a much improved game and created a number of openings from one of which Majid got his first goal in the 17th minute of the first half.

Majid's second goal was a treat to the eyes. Receiving a clever pass from Mushir Ahmed he rushed to the top of the box and unleashed a powerful shot which found the left corner of the net to make it 2-0 for Mohammedan S.C.

The third goal was the result of a clever piece of opportunism by Mohammedan Sporting's Utham Mahmood who, cashing in on a confused situation in front of the Air India goal, booted the ball to Majid who made no mistake to complete his hat-trick.

**MOHUN BAGAN** opened their Shield campaign with a 2-0

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East Bengal's Tapan Das and Tata's Shukheran fight for control of the ball

to try over BNR. But the result was by no means an index of the standard of the big club's game. They started on an indifferent note and did not make sincere effort to improve their performance. Even worse was the case with BNR. Though they had offered a stiff resistance to this on paper-superior rivals and been involved in a 1-1 draw in their league encounter, the BNR players showed little seriousness in doing justice to themselves.

In the first half, only once did they come close to the scoring range when Kishore Das wasted a good opportunity by heading the ball over from a handshaking distance.

The first goal came in the 77th minute following a free-kick awarded to Mohun Bagan just three yards away from the penalty box. Gautam Sarkar unleashed a pile driver which beat a helpless Kunal Mukherjee, the BNR custodian, who chose to position himself behind the

'wall', thereby making himself vulnerable to powerful shots.

The second goal came from a penalty, taken by Subrata Bhat tacharya, only five minutes after the first one had been scored. However, many doubted if the referee's decision regarding the penalty was justifiable.

**EAST BENGAL** were undoubtedly the favourites in this year's shield tournament. Naturally, a large number of people thronged the club ground with great expectations to see the league champions put up a spirited performance in their important quarter-final match against Tata Sports of Bombay. The East Bengal boys did not disappoint their fans. Right from the kick-off they sought to play a constructive game and made quite a few quick inroads into the rival goal area. Only a little bit of finish on the part of the frontliners would have taken the team into a comfortable lead in the first half

itself.

However, that is not to mean that Tata Sports, the runners-up of the Bombay Harwood league, were totally on the receiving end in the first session. They also looked considerably thrustful and launched a few moves into the East Bengal defence zone. But a lack of rhythm and coordination in their attacks, caused by the poor performance of the half liners, especially Joseph Machado, a former player of East Bengal, proved their undoing in most cases.

The match-winner came immediately after the interval through a Mihir Bose-Kartick Sett combined move which saw the latter head the ball past the advancing Tata Sports custodian Bandiya. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Mihir Bose was the chief architect of the home team's success.

SUBHASH SARKAR SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL, DEREK O'BRIEN

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## SPORT QUOTE

**STICK TO IT** I have much to say. But if I'm a little out of sync, please be patient. I'm a little out of sync.

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## CALCUTTA

### Humiliating experience

**W**HY were the three Iranian footballers, Majid, Jamshed and Khabazi stopped by the Gauhati Airport security staff and sent back on the next flight to Calcutta when they went along with Mohammedan Sporting to participate in the Bordoloi Trophy? The short drama that was enacted still remains a mystery. The Iranians who have been in India for four years found the whole incident very humiliating.

In spite of producing both passports and visas to the concerned authorities the Iranians were still not allowed entry. On reaching Calcutta they contacted the club football secretary Ghulam Mustafa who was dumbfounded after being told of the whole episode.

While studying at Aligarh University the Iranians picked up a name for themselves throughout India. What is most surprising is why they weren't refused permission to enter when they played in the earlier rounds of the Bordoloi? However, Jamshed said that they had got the hint that special permission had to be sought from Delhi before entering Assam.

On the first night at Gauhati they were confronted by the police but the Assam Football Association came to the rescue. Since Assam is under President's Rule and presently governed by the 'foreigners issue' the call for strict vigilance is all the more imperative.

Confronted with this embarrassing situation the Iranians were promised that the problem would be sorted out before the semi-finals. Of course the club tried to pursue the Assam Football Federation for a decision but the hosts pleaded their inability and asked the club to get a clean chit from the Home Ministry. That was enough. They proceeded no further. The Iranians were given to understand that they had been given the permission. At the airport, while the rest of the team were allowed entry, the Iranians were not. All thanks to the lethargy of the club officials.

### Row with the rowers

**T**aking over from Goodvear, the Lake Club and the Indian Oxygen Limited in a joint venture took care of the sixth year of the IOL Open Handicap Regatta at the Rabindra Sarovar lake. The idea of holding this competition was to

promote rowing among the students and it has paid dividends. And why shouldn't the youngsters take advantage? By paying a nominal Rs. 50 the novices get two months of free training and also get familiar with the Lake Club equipment. Another highlight is that due to this handicap women, too, have joined the fray. CRC fielded an all women's team which was edged out in the quarter finals probably due to the lack of endurance for the 880 yards course. Then again, there was a keen tussle for the wooden spoon between Lake Club Blue and Capital. While Bengal's ace swimmer Steeparna Banerjee stroked for Lake Club, Capital had cox veteran Manish Sarkar with his daughter Benita, Thirita Dutta and Aditi Roy Choudhury and yet another veteran Jolly Kaul. It may sound odd but it's true—never in the history of rowing had there been ladies rowing against men and both the organisers and sponsors have earned a rare distinction.

However, the smooth and friendly competition was stained by hooliganism. Calcutta University Rowing Club has earned a bad reputation for their goondaism at the lake. They gave vent to their feelings when some CURC rowdies beat up starter Pankaj Basu, a regular member of the Lake Club. There was a big gash under his left eye and he had to be rushed for first aid. The reasoning of the varsity team was that they got a bad start in their semifinal against the Pot-Hunters, who were declared

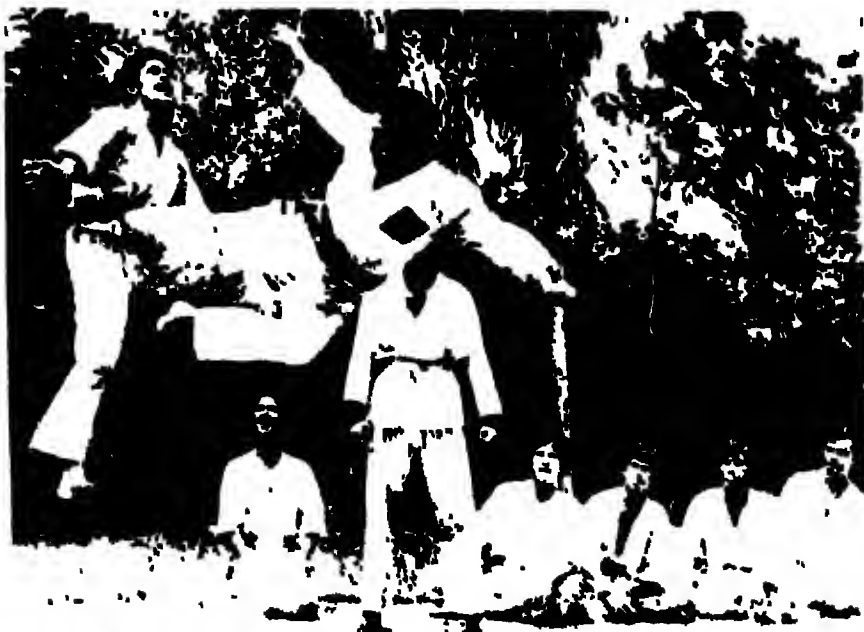
winners. The organisers have taken a strong stand against the CURC and the local police was asked to intervene. Such clubs should be debarred from competitions henceforth. Even the Rowing Federation of India secretary, Subrata Dutta, condemned the misbehaviour and strongly urged the State Rowing Association to bar the university from taking part in meets for one year. Or, even if they are allowed to participate, then the Vice-Chancellor must guarantee that his students behave properly.

Pot Hunters met CICO in the final which the latter won, giving them the IOL Trophy.

SUBHASH SARKAR

### More on Sir Julien Cahn

**I**t was pleasant to meet cricket veteran Kartick Bose, 75, some days ago and he said in the midst of a conversation that he had actually played against Sir Julien Cahn's eleven when he had gone as part of the Rajputana team to England in 1938. This, if the reader has read the 29 September issue of this magazine, shall make much sense and Mr Bose was quoted thus: "I got 29 in the first innings—hit eight boundaries in it—and 104 in 80 minutes off the second! And there were five of Hammond's side playing in the match. There were also players like Mudge, Jack-



The State Kumite and Kata meet organised by the All India Kochi Jaken Karate do and sponsored by Boys Scouts of Bengal was held on the Calcutta Maidan where 150 participants from eight districts were seen in action. Purna Sarkar was the men's champion while Ashis Kumar was the best among the boy katas. Picture shows Purna Sarkar (left) and Shymal Pal in a demonstration.

son Lush and Walsh. Some of them went back to tell Bradman, who was touring at that time, that the Rajputana side had brought along a couple of good players. Sir Don showed his interest and asked me to join him on the coming Saturday for practice at Old Trafford. But, you know, I am cashless. I was having a poor season that year financially and Bradman was forced to play. 'Unlucky Kar tickda'.

I tried to check this up in *Wisden* fruitlessly. They had omitted the very mention of it. However, they had recorded the match that the Rajputana side had played against Cambridge University and Mr Bose had acquitted himself quite fairly—38 and 54 in a game in which Test players Paul Gibb, Norman Yardley and I. G. Mann had also taken part.

MUJIB PATHERYA

## Tollygunge Club—End of the race?

It was coming for a long time. So it was not real surprise. Calcutta is perhaps the only centre in India where racing is held at two places in the city. The illustrious Royal Calcutta Turf Club (RCTC) holds winter and monsoon meetings on the picturesque racecourse at Hastings while the Tollygunge Club situated in the southern most part of Calcutta have their own Gymkhana races. Only amateur riders and trainers are allowed to participate. The professional, of course, battle against one another at the RCTC course.

Amateurism has taken its toll and the club authorities have decided to cancel this year's autumn meeting at Tollygunge. Inter-venue betting has become very popular not only in Calcutta but throughout the country and this is the primary reason why the meet at Tolly has been cancelled.

However, Bob Wright, Senior Steward of the Tollygunge Club, has disclosed that negotiations are on with the RCTC to hold the summer meeting of the club's races at the RCTC course at Hastings. One sincerely hopes that this materialises or else this might just be the end of horse racing at the Tolly.

DEREK GIBLIN

## MADRAS

### No eyes!

FOOTBALL fans are knowledgeable and can't be fooled as teams from State Bank of India and Integral Coach Factory discovered during their Champions Cup Football Tournament at Vellore, 120 kilometres from here. Both the teams had already qualified for the semi-finals and therefore indulged

in some dilly dalling. There seemed no intention among the players to score.

The spectators were quick to see through these farcical proceedings. A section of them walked out and demanded the return of their tickets, money saving that they had come to watch football and not horse play. Then some spectators directly interfered with the play by rushing on to the field. There was a melee and a tree for all. Stones and chappals were thrown from the stands out of the ground. One intrepid spectator got possession of the ball and refused to part with it. With the situation fast deteriorating the referee had no option but to call off play.

## Another win for Rohtas

WHEN a cricket Test match is being played, everything else comes to a standstill. So it was this week in Madras when the inaugural Test match between India and Sri Lanka was held. There was hardly any other event gone through, the only notable exception being Dunlop Open Golf Championship.



Rohtas Singh, the 26 year-old Delhi caddie, who had earlier picked up the title in the Wills Open Tournament here, won the Dunlop Open too. Rohtas finished with an aggregate of 285 at the end of the four round event, his scores being a consistent 78, 69, 68 and 70. The gaudy links were difficult to handle and the weather was hardly conducive to good golf. But Rohtas kept his poise, played well and bagged the Rs 2000 first prize. He had pocketed Rs 3000 for winning the Wills Open title.

Calcutta caddie Nomi who was in the lead initially before surrendering it to Rohtas finished second with a score of 292.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

## BOMBAY

### Testing time

ANY more proof, not that it was needed, that Test cricket is all we Indians are concerned with comes through in the following episode.

With a view to 'catch 'em young' a few genuine lovers of the game in Bombay, conducted a cricket tournament for boys under 15 years of age. The eligibility for playing in this event was that the school must be situated in north Bombay. By itself it seemed a good move since those in the city had ample opportunities and resources to display their cricketing talent.

The organisers of the Bhagubhai Khichadia Memorial tournament even managed to get the Bombay selectors to watch the finals so that the performances of the boys were not ignored.

But in its fourth year the tournament's survival on the cricketing calendar of the year for the city is in jeopardy. The reason not enough entries to justify conduct of the tournament. Apparently the schools have pleaded 'lack of funds' for their non participation. A sorry state of affairs.

Eventually one imaginative sponsorship by commercial organisations is the only hope for conducting junior tournaments. And yet the Board of Control for Cricket in India is the richest sports body in the country.

## Yachting—Step daughter of Appu

UNDOUBTILY because yachting as an event is not being held for the Asian in Delhi proper, it is being denied the limelight. This is because all the glamour, the VIP's and paraphernalia is confined to Delhi. Yachting is being held in Bombay.

But the apathy of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee is dit-



# COUNT DOWN 7

## *In a spot of trouble*

**T**HE countdown seems to be running into trouble. At the time of writing, at least two disciplines have been dropped from the Final Games because contrary to the earlier assurances of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee, the infrastructure could not be got ready in time. Gymnastics was struck off the schedule because the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium was not prepared for the event. As for weightlifting, it was a non starter. It had to be scrapped for the same reason. A lot of work still remains to be done on the weightlifting arena at the Asian Games Village.

For all the hustle and bustle to dress up the various venues, the picture is far from heartening. But venue's infrastructure and organisation is only one aspect of an Asian Games. The preparation of our probables also has not been able to raise much hope. Excepting for the performance of the boxers at the Semi Asian Meet there has been little to enthuse over in our ventures abroad.

The Pragati Mandir offices of the SOC which will soon be shifted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium are a beehive of activity and also the inevitable petty intrigue as more and more people wait in the hope of being recognised for their past contributions to the cause of Indian sport. Particularly sore are some proud old timers who have no roles to play in spite of their redoubtable credentials.

No history of Indian sport can be taken as complete without an honourable mention of Montu Chand Dhawan, India's triple jump representative at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games and later secretary of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India for

many years, is now in his seventies and lives a retired life at Ajmer. He has taught many a generation of boys at the famous Mayo College. The man who first gave Indian athletics a sense of direction is still one learns in good health.

Indian athletics has not had a better team at the helm than Raja Bhalidra Singh and M C Dhawan. While the first named is a key man in the Asiad '82 set up, the other has been sadly forgotten. An appropriate honour for M C Dhawan would be to bear the Asian Games torch into the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and light the flame.

Indian sports fans of an older generation will also remember the late S S (Shereef) Dhawan, elder brother of "M C". The Asian Games movement itself would not have made a start but for men like Shereef Dhawan, one of the great pillars of the first Games in New Delhi in 1951, and right hand man of Anthony De Melho, Director of Asiad '51. The letter by Shereef's widow in a national daily complaining against the manner in which her husband's name has been omitted from the history of the first Games should have stirred the conscience of the men in the SOC.

When the hockey probables go into training again at the National Stadium one hopes one will do more heat of twisted ankles and torn muscles. The lack of water on the astro turf pitch has been blamed for the injuries suffered by some of our players, including Mervyn Fernandes whose

foot was put in plaster because of a hairline fracture. But is water, or rather the lack of it, really responsible for the injuries? The juniors, who had trained on the same pitch before Kunal Lumpui, had no such complaints. Only the "butra" players run the risk of injuries, as the National Stadium "regular" ironically remarked.

Whatever the truth about the injuries, the lack of adequate watering arrangements at the National Stadium is cause for serious concern. Synthetic pitches, whatever the brand—astro turf or polygrass or any other—need to be watered both before the start of every match and at half time. For the watering system to be adequate, 5,000 litres should be sprayed in five minutes—i.e. at the rate of 1,000 litres a minute. This unfortunately is not so at the National Stadium—not yet. They tried doing it once and the pipe burst under the pressure.

Many months ago the P W D are reported to have sent one of its engineers to study how the Pakistanis watered the astro turf pitch at Karachi. Obviously, the man returned without learning much. The Pakistanis do it manually, several men watering the pitch with hose pipes in such a manner that the whole operation is over in five minutes. The Soviets at Moscow's Dynamo Stadium did it with the help of jets from a tanker which was towed round the pitch. This is just in case one P W D man had not taken his notes.

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the Nation**

difficult to stomach. The AGSOC has yet to keep some of its promises to the Yachting Committee and has been treating it like a "step daughter".

The AGSOC had agreed to provide finance so that among other things, students could watch the events at a nominal price. But with the money yet to arrive the Yachting Committee may have no other alternative but to charge Rs 10 per day if it has to fund the students.

Moreover, the AGSOC gave all the Asian probables a track suit. Oddly enough, the yachting probables never received their gear. When contacted an AGSOC official explained the lapse. "Because we forgot that yachting was being held in Bombay."

Lastly, the yachting probables are supposed to be getting Rs 26 by way of daily allowance and travel allowance. Will it ever come?

HARESH MUNWANI

## BANGALORE

### Bankers' chess

**B**OMBAY S R Bhat V N Ghate annexed the second All India Bankers' chess title when he scored a superb victory over clubmate V G Sridhekar in the seventh and final round. Ghate finished with six

points, a clear half point ahead of Union Bank's Ravi Hegde, in the seven-round Swiss.

Ravi Hegde claimed the second spot with a win over D K Desai. It was a clean sweep by the Bombay bankers since they walked away with the first six places.

The title holder S N Ravishankar of Canara Bank was shunted down to seventh place with a tally of 4½ points.

The final standings were as follows: V N Ghate—1, Ravi Hegde—2, V G Sridhekar (RBI)—3, S G Joshi (UB)—4, R Gokhale (UB)—5, Ram Mohan (BOI)—6, S N Ravishankar (Canara Bank)—7, N P Prasad (BOI Vizag)—8, Manohar Hegde (Canara Bank)—9.

### Keen contests at Bangalore tennis

**T**HE recently concluded Bangalore City Institute Open Tennis Tournament saw some keen contests even though the general standard of tennis left a lot to be desired.

Except for a few minors and sub minors from Madras, the other participants were from Karnataka. The players from Mysore proved to be a cut above their counterparts from Bangalore. Three out of four semi-finalists in the men's singles were from Mysore. The presence of some

more players from Madras would have definitely resulted in better tennis.

N P Raghuveer (Mysore) scored a creditable double in the men's events. He won the singles by upsetting topseed and favourite B R Prasadashri 6-3, 2-6, 6-2. Prasadashri, who had won the State championships a few months back, bearing the US based Ilangovan easily in the final was unusually erratic against Raghuveer. He played exceedingly well in the second set but committed a lot of unforced errors in the first and third sets. Raghuveer completed a double, when partnering Prasadashri, defeated Rajeev and Ravindranath (Madras) 6-4, 6-3.

Earlier this year Raghuveer played for a few months in the Satellite Circuit abroad. This short stint appears to have done him tennis a lot of good. On the other hand Prasadashri is doing a lot of coaching these days which may be one of the factors for him not playing at his best. However, both Prasadashri and Raghuveer were, in the absence of Raghuram, far too good for the other players and reached the final comfortably. Prasadashri beat Ramaswamy from Mysore and Raghuveer beat Arav Deo, also from Mysore 6-1, 6-2 in the other semi-final.

The Junior Singles for boys under 18 was won by Ravindranath from Madras who beat A D Shivaprasadh

# Thirsti times Limcatimes

Thirsty? Limca with isotonic salts is the answer. This enjoyable, lime-and-lemon thirst-quencher has vitamin C too.



from Kollegal 6-1, 6-2 in a very one-sided final. Ravindranath too won a double when in tandem with Rajeev they overwhelmed Naresh Sundaram and Javed Ahmed in straight sets.

Parvathi Venkataramaiah annexed the women's title with tremendous ease. She needed just fifty minutes to emerge triumphant over C. Mary 6-3, 6-2. Parvathi used the sidelines to her advantage and tired Mary out by making her run from corner to corner. Emanuel John, Meenakshi Sundaram and Ajay Deo were the most promising juniors in view.

Mr. K. Gangadhar, Minister for Information and Youth Services distributed the awards to the winners. Earlier, Mr. H. C. Sukantiah, Minister for Cooperation and a keen tennis player himself, inaugurated a floodlit court.

HANT MOHANHANGAM

## DELHI

### Honouring the Wizard of Jhansi

THE RE is a grassless ground in Jhansi where a long time ago the late Dhyan Chand practised and practised till he achieved immortal mastery or wizardry in hockey. When he died three years ago his admirers cremated him at the very place where he had perfected his art. Soon after the cremation was born the idea of raising a suitable memorial to Jhansi's great son, who in his later years was known as *dada* to every body.

The dream came true on September 2 when a six foot statue of Dhyan Chand was unveiled on the same ground by Maj. Gen. Kler, commanding the Armoured Corps stationed in Jhansi. Money came from public donations, big and small. There was no help from the government, but these loving admirers of *dada* Dhyan Chand were not discouraged.

It is a story worth telling. A few days after Dhyan Chand's mortal remains were consigned to the flames, the Indian Airlines team, for whom Ashok Kumar Singh, the famous son of Dhyan Chand and former India captain plays, figured in a match with a Jhansi selection. The Rs. 3,500 collected from the game became the nucleus for a fund raised by the Dhyan Chand Memorial Committee of which Ashok himself is the secretary.

As time rolled by help came from various sources, including donations of Rs. 5,000 each from the Jhansi Municipal Committee and the Rotary Club. But most significant of all was the Rs. 10,000 raised by school and college students through sale of



one rupee tickets. There was also help in kind from admirers like Mr. Vishwanath Sharma, MP and a few others of Dhyan Chand's generation.

Over Rs. 50,000 has been spent on installing the statue, sculptured by a local artiste Shiv Chatur, and work has started on a stadium at the site where terraces have already come up. "It is all the result of the love the people in Jhansi's mohallas had for a man who put the town on the sports map of the world," says Ashok Kumar, who hopes the day is not far when work on the stadium and a Dhyan Chand museum will be completed.

### Table Tennis time

NOT even the Trial Games, held during one of the capital's worst post-monsoon dengue epidemics in recent years, could prevent "The Times of India" table tennis tournament from taking some share of the limelight. The "Times" tournament is the only prize money tournament of the capital and has, over the years, come to be regarded as one of the premier events in the table tennis calendar of the north. Even Mr. Bura Singh, Chairman of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee, took time off his busy schedule at the Trial Games venues, to inaugurate the tournament.

The tournament in recent years

has been held at different centres like Lucknow and Bhopal with a view to promoting the game in a wider area. This year, in Delhi, it was held at the IIT Indian Institute of Technology gymnasium, Hauz Khas, which in the past has been the venue of more than one inter-university badminton tournament.

With most of the country's leading players tired after the exacting team and individual tournaments of the Trial Games, the "Times" competition suffered from lack of strong opposition challenge, though not in popularity.

Maumtee Singh forgot his brush with authority during the Trial Games, which earned him a reputation. He outclassed his senior Manjit Dua in four games to receive the handsomely carved Times Trophy from the Union Minister for Energy, Petroleum and Coal, Mr. Shiv Shinkai.

Partnering Nitin Puri, Manmeet outclassed Satbir Singh and Jayant Thatte 21-17, 21-19 in the men's doubles final. Earlier, Satbir had gone down to Assam's Arun Joshi Barua 17-21, 17-21, 19-21, in the boys' final. Switching to the offensive from the word go, the Assam lad hit his way to an authentic victory.

There was only one player in the women's singles final—Indu Puri. Steadily aggressive forehand play and skilful flicking enabled the left-handed Indu to beat Rajasthan girl Shraddha Sharma 2

## Evolution of the ball

The cricket ball has not undergone much change in size, weight and colour over the last two centuries. Although it has never been spelt out in laws, the ball has always been red. In 1706 in Goldwin's verses, the ball was described as "leather covered", and it was almost certainly dyed red and stuffed with hemp hair.

According to the 1774 code, the ball weighed between five and six ounces. After 30 years, the figures were reduced to 5 1/2 and 5 3/4 ounces. Since then there has been no change at all.

Only twice in the history of cricket, a ball of a different colour was used in a match. This novel thing was done because some legislators and promoters then felt that the sight of a blood-coloured ball might have an upsetting effect on their minds. So a blue ball was used. But this experiment lasted only a few days and the blue ball was replaced by a white ball. Players did approve of this innovation in 1936, but soon women cricketers returned to the use of the traditional ball, red.

The first time a code was made about the circumference of the ball was in 1834 when it was decided that the ball must measure between 9 and 9 3/4 inches. After 90 years, in 1927, the circumference was reduced to "between 8 13/16 and 9 inches". Since then, the law has remained unaltered.

Mr Brodribb says "the only difference between the modern ball and that, say, of 100 years ago, is that whereas formerly the seam used to lie flush with the surface, it now protrudes and this gives the bowler a better grip both for spin and swing. Legislators with an eye on helping the oppressed bowler have always been aware of the advantages of a good grip and in 1949 the MCC made a limited experiment in some first class matches with a ball which had a nine cord thread, instead of the usual eight cord thread".

During the MCC tour of South Africa in 1948-49, an umpire objected to D V P Wright's habit of licking the ball between

each delivery.

There are many who shine the ball with their "sweat".

According to the law, the innings should commence with the new ball until it is decided otherwise before the toss. Once the law was violated in the match between Yorkshire and Sussex in 1933 Sussex began their second innings with 17 to win and all wickets standing and after playing the first ball, F H Bowley, enquired if it was with his captain's permission that an old ball was being used. The answer was "no" and Chester the umpire, ordered a new ball to be fetched. He also said that he would have given Bowley "not out" if the bowler, G G Macaulay, had dis-

missed the batsman with that ball. Macaulay wanted one wicket for his 100th of the season, and in those circumstances preferred the use of an old ball without proper permission to use it.

According to the present day convention, the ball, even at the start of the innings, is deposited with the umpire who passes it on to the bowler. This prevents any bowler from taking undue advantage. The umpires keep the ball in their custody during intervals including drink recess.

Q State a simple method to check whether the bowling and popping creases at each end are marked parallel with each other.  
A Diagonal checking.

Q Can the popping and return creases be re-marked during the drink break?

A Yes.  
Q In a match of two or more days duration (a) what are the portions of the pitch and ground that can be re-turfed and (b) can the footmarks made by the bowler in front of the popping crease be re-turfed?

A (a) Pitch to be re-turfed up to delivery stride and (b) re-turfing footmarks is permissible.

Q What is the latest time by which the captain winning the toss must decide whether his team will bat or field?

A The captain winning the toss must communicate his decision 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

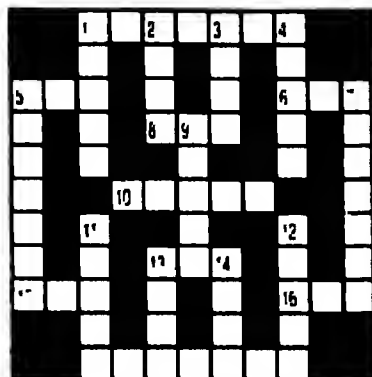
Q The injured striker who has a substitute running for him hits a ball to deep square leg. Three runs are completed and the non-striker is within the crease at the striker's end and the runner for the injured batsman is within the crease of the bowler's end. The ball is thrown to the wicket keeper, who seeing the injured striker standing on the popping crease (the injured striker was watching the ball) with neither the bat nor any part of his person within 'home'. The wicket keeper puts the wicket down and claims for run out.  
(a) Can the striker be given out and (b) how many runs will be credited?  
A The striker is out, run out and no run will be added.



# Crossword

MUJAR

167



## ACROSS

- 1 Badminton star whose first name is Lius (1 6)
- 5 Golfing term which has a paternal start (3)
- 6 The Greatest (3)
- 8 West Indian batsman of another age has a hearing organ coming back (3)
- 10 What Chandra was often described as (5)
- 13 The editor of this magazine contracted to? (3)
- 15 One of the top milers of this day returns (3)
- 16 Bob Massie's first three initials, all of which return (1 1 1)
- 17 Australian off spinner now playing who begins with a measuring standard (7)

## DOWN

- 1 West Indian cricketer Gomes and his heavyweight boxer of relevant importance have this in common (5)
- 2 Six deliveries in a cricket match constitute an? (4)
- 3 —, set and match! (4)
- 4 Common afflicted parts of the anatomy for both, Ashe and Ken Barrington (5)
- 5 All rounder from Cambridge, who played against India this summer at cricket (7)
- 7 This Johansson of boxing whose first name was? (7)
- 9 Where gladiator fought gladiator in the ancient days (5)
- 11 Marciano and Sylvester Stallone have something in familiar (5)
- 12 The stupidest part of cricket's point is when it is? (5)
- 13 What a batsman hates to end up with (4)
- 14 Part of an animal's posterior for a portion of the batting order (4)

Excellent : 25-18 Good : 17-15, Fair : 10-14

# Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

Unscramble the jumbles and find out terms related to sports and games

- 1 LLOYD
- 2 RATMOHAN
- 3 TOPIN
- 4 DLASTRED
- 5 ATKRC
- 6 REMUIP
- 7 VEETIHGWAY
- 8 EPALROV
- 9 POCOS
- 10 TEKSIRR

## ANSWERS

- 10 STRIKER
- 6 SCOOP
- 8 OVERLAP
- 7 HEAVYWEIGHT
- 9 UMPIRE
- 5 TRACK
- 4 STRADDLE
- 3 POINT
- 2 MARATHON
- 1 DOLLY

# Question box

words by author and

Prakash Salunka, Latur, Biswajit Kar, Midnapore, Sanjay Satpathy and Sunil Padhir Varanasi

Q Who was the first victim of Richard Hadlee in Tests?

A Asif Iqbal of Pakistan in the first Test at Wellington in 1972-73

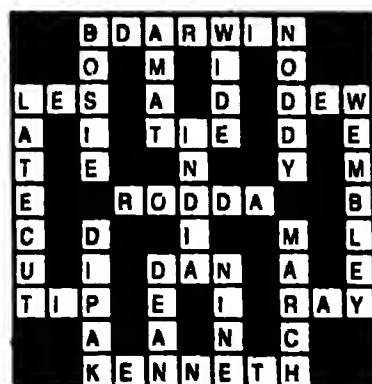
Q Please give me the dates of birth of Viv Richards Sunil Gavaskar and Greg Chappell

A Viv Richards of the West Indies was born on 7 March, 1952 Sunil Gavaskar on 10 July, 1949 and Greg Chappell of Australia on 7 August, 1948

Q How many centuries have been scored by Allan Border of Australia in Tests?

A Nine centuries in 42 Tests before embarking on the tour of Pakistan

## SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 166



Mirza Riba, Arunachal

Q Please give me the address of Ian Botham

A Care Somerset County Cricket Club, County Cricket Ground St James Street Taunton, England  
Mohammad S Haidar, Daepak Prasad, Begusarai

Q How many Test centuries have been scored by Indian batsmen?

A A total of 139 comprising 129 centuries and 10 double centuries

Mohd Jawaid Jabbar, Sambalpur

Q Who were the rival captains in the first ever Ashes Test and who won the Test?

A W I Murdoch of Australia and A N Hornby of England Australia won the Test by seven runs

Shakeel Haider Begusarai

Q What is the Test bowling and batting record of Imran Khan?

A At the conclusion of the tour of England in 1982 Imran Khan's record was 40 Tests 65 innings eight times not out 1542 runs 123 as his highest score 27.05 average one century five half centuries four ducks 11 catches 10589 balls 358 maidens 4590 runs 179 wickets 25.64 average 12 times over five wickets twice over 10 wickets and played five Tests as a captain

M Martin Uddin Raja, Assam

Q Who was the first Test victim of Dennis Lillee of Australia? How did he capture it?

A Alan Knott of England in the sixth Test at Adelaide in 1970-71 Ian Redpath helped Lillee in getting the first victim

Magan Kumar Mehra Siliguri

Q How many Test cricketers in their first Tests scored a century in both innings?

A Lawrence Rowe of the West Indies who on his Test debut scored 214 and 100 not out against New Zealand at Kingston in 1971-72

Mrs K Parasramka Margherita

Q What is backward point in swing bowling outswinger and incoming ball in cricket?

A Backward point is a fielding position a little behind point An inswinger or an incoming ball is the delivery bowled by a fast bowler which is pitched outside or on the off stump and coming on to the middle or leg stump An outswinger is the delivery bowled by a fast bowler pitched outside the leg and going on to the middle or off stump

Supratim Chatterji, Agartala

Q When, where and against whom did Weekes Worrell and Walcott of West Indies make their debut in Tests?

A Weekes and Walcott made their Test debut for the West Indies in the first Test against England at Bridgetown in 1947-48 and Worrell in the second Test against England at Port of Spain in 1947-48

Abid Hussain Biswas, 24 Parganas

Q Who has hit the maximum numbers of sixes in an innings of a Test?

A Walter Hammond of England who hit 10 sixes in an innings in his knock of 336 not out against New Zealand at Auckland in 1932-33

**Shatish Manohar, Bangalore**

**Q** Please let me know who was the first Indian to score a century in Tests?

**A** Lala Amarnath who made 118 in the first Test against England at Bombay in 1933-34

**Dhirendra Kumar Mundichak, Bhagalpur, Manas Kumar Das, Golaghat**

**Q** What is the Test batting record of S M Gavaskar?

**A** At the conclusion of the tour of England Gavaskar's batting record was 78 Tests 137 innings nine times not out 6792 runs 221 as highest score 53.06 as his average 24 centuries 30 half centuries and seven ducks

**N Saroja Hyderabad**

**Q** What is the address and the date of birth of Roger Binny?

**A** Roger Binny was born on 19 July, 1955. You may write to him care Karnataka State Cricket Association, KSCA Stadium, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore 560 001

**S R. Gonda, Belgaum**

**Q** How many Tests have C K Nayudu, Vizzy, I A K Pataudi, Lala Amarnath and Vijay Hazare played for India?

**A** C K Nayudu played seven Tests for India, Vizzy three, Iftikar Ali Khan Pataudi also three, Lala Amarnath seven and Vijay Hazare 30

**Banasheadhara Sahoo, Asurani**

**Q** What is the highest score by Sobers of the West Indies in a Test innings? Has any other batsman made more runs than him?

**A** The highest score by Sobers was an

unbeaten 365 and no other batsman has scored more runs than him in a Test innings

**Wroolaban Sen, Calcutta.**

**Q** What is the full name of S M H Kirmani?

**A** Syed Mujtaba Hussain Kirmani Sanjay Chopra, Delhi

**Q** Which bowler has conceded the maximum runs in an innings of a Test?

**A** L O B Fleetwood-Smith of Australia conceded a maximum of 298 runs in 87 overs in the fifth Test against England at The Oval in 1948

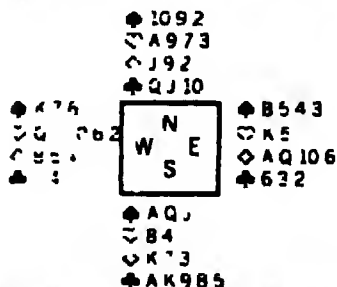
**R Narayan, V Kumar, V Muralidharan, G Krishnan, Salem**

**Q** How many runs did Sir Donald Bradman score in the first day's play of the Leeds Test against England in 1930? **A** Bradman scored exactly 309 runs

## Bridge

By Boris Schapiro

These days there is such a proliferation of both systems and conventions that it seems a rare thing for the bidding to go the same way at three tables. However, that is just what happened on this week's hand. Mind you, the play differed — just as well, otherwise there would have been no story!



South dealt at love all, and this was the bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
♠ 1	pass	♠ 2	pass
2 NT	pass	3 NT	pass
pass	pass		

In spite of the heart bid on his left West decided to lead ♠ Q and declarer played low from the table to give East something of a problem. If he overtakes this declarer has got a second heart guard, while if he plays low he will simply be allowed to win the next heart lead and will have no more hearts. Either way the hearts would be shut out. So East took a good decision and switched the attack by overtaking and leading the Queen of diamonds. South won with the King but eventually he tried a spade finesse for his contract, and now a diamond lead through dummy's ♠ 9 gave East three more tricks. At the second table declarer was unwilling to risk a diamond switch and went up with ♠ A at trick one. Now the hearts were blocked and an immediate spade finesse drove out West's entry. Eventually South came to his ninth trick by tanking the diamonds himself. It looks as though declarer should always get home, but the West at the third table created a neat diversion. He led a heart all right, but a low heart, and not the top of his sequence. Now if dummy's Ace is

played, East can afford to unblock with the King and the suit is comfortably established for the defence.

It is a point worth noting that the low card can work surprisingly well when dummy's suit is led. Of course it can cost a trick, but more often it seems to gain both by deception and sometimes by force. It is especially fun when you lead low from K Q J X X and declarer goes in with dummy's Ace from A 10 X X in an attempt to block the suit.

**Last week's quiz.** As South you dealt with ♠ 8, ♥ K Q J 10 7 4, ♦ K 3, ♣ K Q 10 4 and open one-heart. Your partner surprised you with an immediate 4 NT and you bid five-clubs to show no Aces. Then he bid 5 NT — asking for Kings. It looks all too easy to count up and respond six-spades, but remember that your partner's bid not only asks for Kings, but guarantees that the partnership holds all four Aces. You can do counting in a different kind — and respond 7 NT (Not hearts — humiliating if somebody could trump the opening lead).

**This week's quiz.** As South at love all you deal with ♠ A K J 10 4, ♥ A K 10 8 3, ♦ K 4, ♣ 2. What choice of opening bid would you make — two clubs, two-spades or one-spade?

## Chess

By Peter...

International master W A Fairhurst (1903-1982) was one of those rare men who manage to complement a distinguished professional career with successes at chess. Famous at home and abroad as a bridge designer, he found the time to become the dominant player in Scotland and to remain such for more than three decades. He won the national championship a record 11 times and led his country's team regularly in Olympiads, won an unofficial championship of the Commonwealth in 1951 and was British Champion in 1937. He achieved all this in a style that was meticulous and sound, just as his structural designs must have been. Here is a fine win of his against a great veteran, the man whose achievements in the British Championship have been surpassed only by Penrose.

**White:** William Fairhurst; **Black:** Henry Atkins. Queen's Pawn, Grünfeld Defence (British Championship Blackpool, 1937)

1 P - e4, K2 - K33,	2 P - e4, P - K33
3 K2 - K33, P - e4,	4 e4 - e4, P - e3
5 P - K3, e4 - e2,	6 P - K33, e4 - e3
7 K2 - K33, P - K3,	8 P - e3, P - e4
9 e4 - e3, K2 - e4,	10 e4 - K33, K2 - e4
11 P - e4	

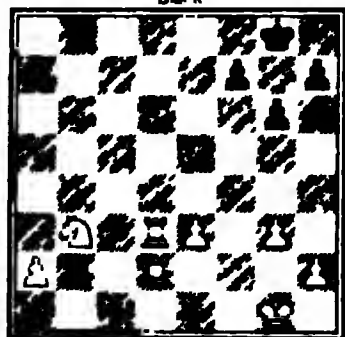
Thanks to Black's rather passive play White has come out of the opening with good long term prospects in the centre.

11 e4 - e2,	12 e4 - e2, K2 - e2
13 e4 - K33, P - K4,	14 e4 - e2, K2 - e1
15 e4 - e1, P - K3,	16 P - e4, e4 - e1
17 K2 - e2, P - K33,	18 K2 - e4, e4 - K33
19 K2 - K1, e4 - e2,	20 e4 - e2, P - K34
21 P - e4, K2 - e4,	22 e4 - K33, e4 - e4
23 P - K4, e4 - K31,	24 P - e4, e4 - e4
25 e4 - K3, K2 - e1,	26 e4 - K4, e4 - e2
27 e4 - e7, K2 - K34	28 e4 - K34, P - K34

It is hard to see why this weakening move was preferred to e4 - K3.

29 e4 - e4, K2 - K1,	30 e4 - K3, e4 - e4
31 e4 - K3, e4 - K2,	32 e4 - K3, e4 - K2
33 e4 - e4, e4 - e4,	34 e4 - e4, e4 - e4

**Competition 6538** Solution next week  
**Black:**



White

Black to play and win. Grade 2 (easy).

**Solution to 6538 (Portoch - Mihalevic, Nels, 1967)**  
(483/342p1/p3k1/3q1p2/7b1r2/2PP1/4P2P/3K1 - White to play) The Hungarian grandmaster destroyed the black King's defences by 50 B x P Q - Q7 (450 K x B then 51 Q - K7ch leads to mate) 51 R - K4ch K x B 52 Q - K7ch K - R1 53 Q - K8ch K - R2 54 Q - K8ch K - R1 55 R - K8ch and Black resigned.

**Problem No 1205** Solution next week

**A. Clușca (First Prize, Giornale di Genova 1937)**  
(18223/1P1R1R2K2A/K2p1P2p1P5R2B4P/6B/2 - 8 white men, 8 black)

White to play and mate in two moves.

**Solution to No 1204 (Speckmann) (7K/7P/3B/4B3/6R/6Rk - mate in six.)** 1 K1 B4ch (a) 1 R/R7 K17 2 Q - B3, K R7 3 Q - KR3mate, (b) 1 R(K1B) K17 2 Q - K1ch R - K8, 3 Q - K17ch, R(K8B) - K17, 4 Q - K4 and either 4 K - K8, 5 Q - K1 mate or 4 R x Pch, 5 K x R K - R7 6 Q x R



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# Sportsworld

## SRIKKANTH: Back to the fore



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How are the veterans leading their lives today those who in their youth raised the standard of Indian football much higher than it is now? SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL investigates.



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Editor Mansur Ali Khan Palauti

Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sarcar  
Correspondents Bombay Harish Mahan Madras A. M.  
Staff Photographer Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Art Director Bipul Guha  
Published by Ananda Bazar  
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## Letters to the Editor

### In retrospect

TO be very frank it was extremely sad on the part of the cricket lovers to hear of the result of the first ever official Test match between India and Sri Lanka. Had there been any other cricket playing country against Sri Lanka on that occasion, they would have scored the required 175 to win the match. One of the things that I could not understand was why Sunil Gavaskar changed the batting order so miserably and himself took a long rest in the pavilion.  
B. V. V. PRADHAN,  
Hastanuruguda

### Golden girl

THE performance of Rita Sen of Bengal at the Final Games was in

deed praiseworthy. She became the first Indian woman athlete to achieve the herculean task of winning the 100 metres, 200 m and the 400 m race too.

SABUJ SEN,  
Calcutta

### A dubious record

SUNIL GAVASKAR seems to have set yet another world record, but this time a dubious one. He lost the toss for the ninth consecutive time in a Test—against Sri Lanka.

V K DASANI,  
Calcutta

### Final say

I SUGGEST the staging of a four Test series against Sri Lanka if Sunil Gavaskar is to equal Don Bradman's record of 29 Test centuries.

RAHUL KISHORE,  
New Delhi

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## COIMBATORE MOTOR RALLY

I HAVE a mechanic friend who is a sort of whizkid when it comes to repairing and riding motor cycles. For years he has been taking part in the Sholavaram races in Madras, the most popular motor race meet in the country. But lately his interest in participating in these races is diminishing, as he confided in me.

Recently he said "The thing that gets me up now is the motor rallies. These rallies are far more interesting than ordinary motor races in that they are more challenging, certainly more tough and there is a sense of adventure and fulfilment concerning the rally which you do not have when racing. In short motor racing to me racing pittance is for sprinters, while the rally is for the stayers, men who can stay on the long, arduous course."

There are a lot of motor racing aficionados who would agree with my mechanic friend. Evidence of this was seen in this year's Coimbatore Rally. That the rally was a spontaneous success no one will deny. The first and foremost reason was the number of participants. There were 46 cars and 64 two-wheelers and among them were well known names in the action world of motor rallying. The majority of the participants were from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra and Kerala but there were entries too from faroff cities like Calcutta and Bombay.

Out of quantity comes quality and this rally certainly had a unique quality about it. For one thing, the distance—2200 kilometres for cars and 1600 kilometres for two-wheelers was one of the longest organised in this country.

The vehicles, the competitors and the attire worn by them were something to be seen to be believed. Particularly eye-catching were the men in the two-wheelers. More open to the elements, they were all well protected against rain or shine, accident or over exposure. One indeed found it almost incredible that they donned everything, overalls, jackets, helmets, goggles, boots and full sleeves for the entire journey. It must have been suffocating, but nothing seemed to bother the adventurous spirit of these men and the handful of ladies who took part. In fact, there were three in all, one in the two-wheelers and two in the car event.

A novel scheme was the insurance coverage for all the 300 odd participants. The coverage was for Rs 50,000 by the United India Insurance Co. Ltd. It was the first time in India that the competitors were covered under this scheme.

Many vehicles, being sponsored, wore an artistic look. All sorts of names and in all sorts of styles were painted on the cars or two-wheelers. A most interesting fact was that some of the cars gave the blood group of the drivers against their names. In case of a serious accident, this information would no doubt be useful.

The objective of such an event was manifold. First to encourage and popularise auto rallies. Secondly, to inculcate a sense of adventure and action amongst the youth of the country. Thirdly, it gave an opportunity for users to identify the best make of Indian manufactured four-wheelers and two-wheelers. Fourthly, it was a test

of the manufacturers' products, machines and spares. Frequent rallies will help them to improve their products for the benefit of the users.

One can almost say for sure that the rally did achieve all its objectives. The event came to a rousing conclusion on October 6 at Coimbatore with the awards distribution ceremony presided over by Mr S. Narayanan, district manager (south), ITC. Vivek Chandok of Madras won the first prize of Rs 25,000 by claiming the event for four-wheelers. Driving a Fiat, he had only 120 penalty points and finished far ahead of the second-placed Deepak Patel of Coimbatore who incurred 240 penalty points. Patel also drove Premier. Premier did itself proud when nine of their cars finished in the first ten. Third prize went to Siraj Afther Ali of Mysore who incurred 260 penalty points and fourth was Bopanna of Coorg, with 280 penalty points. Ali won Rs 7,500 while Bopanna took home Rs 5,000.

P. S. Selvaraj and Sudhanthiraj of Coimbatore finished on top in the two-wheeler event. They incurred 1040 penalty points and took the first prize of Rs 15,000. Just behind in second place with 1050 penalty points were Kishnamurthy and Yethiraj of Mysore, who were richer by Rs 9,000. In third place were Gautham Kedham and N. Mohan of Coimbatore. They had 1120 penalty points and took home Rs 6,000. With 1250 penalty points, Balamurali Krishnan and K. G. Chakrapani took fourth place and Rs 4,000. Additional prizes were also given in both the events for best performances in each of the sectors. These prizes came to Rs 9,000 in each event.

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# KEEPING TRACK



# ALL IN THE GAME

## FUN RUN

*Running with the pack*

It has affected London even more than a plague. Unbelievable: 27,570 competitors for a race. Well, that's just it. In four days from now Hyde Park will play host to the spectacle as the Fun Run gets underway. There are separate events for boys and girls under ten and even for men well past their century. The group which has shown the most enthusiasm (everyone really has) is the one which comprises men between 41 and 49. The Running Forties they've been called and the starter is likely to be drowned by the sound of hundreds of digital watches being started.

This year a unique event for the disabled has been included—a wheelchair event. After competing in separate groups in races which range from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles, all the runners will take part in the Mass Jog. One wonders whether the last of the participants will get over the start line before the leaders complete the course? That's not the only question which has to be answered. Will Majorie Sussens, the oldest entrant, only two years from her eightieth birthday, complete the course? One thing is sure. Everyone wins the race! At least they think they do.

## RACY ROSBERG

*Champion of champions*

THE odds-on favourite Keke Rosberg won the formula one world drivers' championship in splendid style, driving a race immaculate for its concentra-

tion from start to finish.

The battle between Rosberg and John Watson, the only person who could even be considered as a contender for the championship, became yet another race which Watson can pack up in his bag of forlorn struggles.

There was an alarming high number of drop-outs, two of whom were René Arnoux, an early leader who had electrical problems and Mario Andretti who spun with a broken suspension. As a result Rosberg knew even at the halfway point that all he had to do was to finish the race. 'The last ten laps were long, very long,' said Rosberg, now the new world champion.

## TENNIS AT THE OLYMPICS

*McEnroe and Connors for Olympics*

WHAT would you do to the person who came up and told you that McEnroe, Connors, Borg, Lendl and company would be competing in the 1988 Olympic Games? You'd dismiss him as a lunatic. But, hold your horses.



The International Olympic Committee originally planned to hold tennis as a demonstration game at the Los Angeles Games in 1984 in view of including it at the 1988 Games. But now the IOC are giving serious thought to the idea of including tennis at the Olympics. The problem that has arisen regards the eligibility of the players. The International Tennis Federation suggested that amateurs along with those professionals who have played Davis Cup should be allowed to take part. The ITF ruling has been accepted by the IOC President Juan Samaranch who is reported to have started encouraging committee members to support the idea. Would the top pros play for peanuts? There are many top officials of the Association of Tennis Professionals—one of whom is Arthur Ashe—who feel that the players would compete for the honour and glory. Connors—Wimbledon and Olympic champion Sounds good.

## SAVIOUR SACKED

*Russian coach resigns*

HE was hailed the saviour of Soviet football this year's World Cup finals in Spain dealt a severe blow to Konstantin Beskov's popularity and ambitions. Following a barrage of criticism in the Soviet Press over his handling of the squad in Spain, Mr Beskov decided to step down as coach of the national side. Instead he will now concentrate his energies on managing Moscow Spartak.

At the same time Mr Beskov hit back at the critics when he said, 'Those who criticise me believe that what they say is justified, but soccer critics

know football only from outside. They don't know what goes on in the back room.' Perhaps the graying Russian is right.

## RACE TO REMEMBER

*Shoemaker versus Piggott*

THE meeting place—Ascot. Horse racing, of course! But this time it was for a worthy cause. The climax of the programme which was sponsored by Long John Scotch Whisky was a skilfully arranged match. The two opponents scarcely need any introduction. Lester Piggott ten times Britain's champion jockey and the American Knight (or should one say king) of the pigskin Willie Shoemaker. Both men are still going strong, Piggott at 46 and Shoemaker at 50, in a sport where people of their age are way past their best.

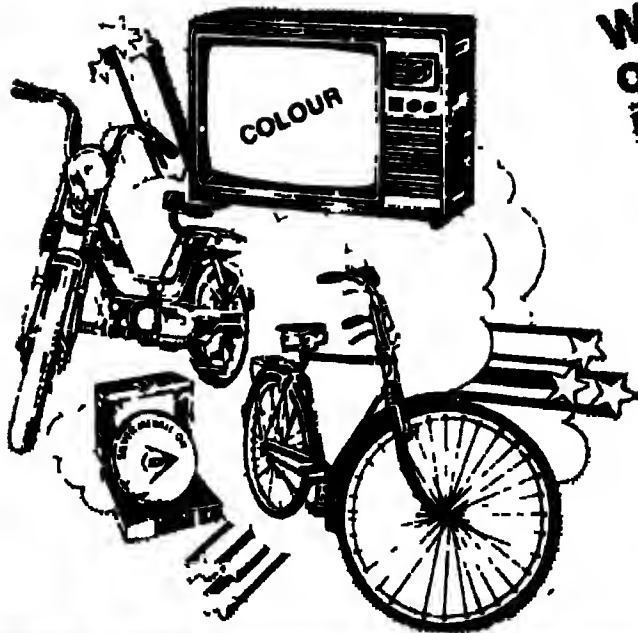
Back to Ascot, where it was decided by lots that the English jockey would ride the three-year-old Spanish Pool while the American would be astride Prince's Gate, a five-year-old. Both the horses were handicapped so that they would dead heat at the end of the one-mile event. And the stage was set—Piggott against Shoemaker on horses which at least from theory were supposed to finish together.

The match itself was rather a tame affair with Prince's Gate (Shoemaker) finishing a clear 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lengths ahead of Piggott on Spanish Pool. Shoemaker made it a start to finish affair with Piggott playing the role—typical of British jockeys—of a 'waiter'. There was no response from the odds-on favourite Spanish Pool just below the distance and Shoemaker then rode on with hands and heels to bring a touch of magic to an otherwise damp day at Ascot.

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# The Federation has no guts

G. Jagannath, former Indian table tennis international himself, points out the ills of the sport in the country

IT is indeed very disheartening to note that of late the affairs of the Table Tennis Federation of India, the apex body of Table Tennis activity, has sunk to its lowest ebb on all fronts. This has been particularly noticed in spheres like selection of Indian contingents and discipline amongst players and officials concerned. In spite of the fact that the selection committee comprises ex-national champions and Indian internationals, it is clearly seen that there is no clear cut policy or set pattern while selecting Indian teams for competitions abroad for the past two years. But is it proper to throw the entire blame on the selection committee alone, when it is reliably learnt that a high ranking Federation official often interferes with the selection committee's recommendations to suit his whims and fancies.

To start with, the Indian national champion V. Chandrasekhar was dropped from the Indian squad for the first Pyongyang International Table Tennis Championships in 1981. The reason given was that he had finished fifth in the selection trials conducted at Patiala prior to the championships. But in the same league, Sujay Ghorpade, who finished sixth and Kamlesh Mehta, who finished seventh were selected to represent India. In the same selection trials Manmeet Singh, who after playing only a few matches, sprained his ankle. The remaining five or six matches which he did not play at all were awarded in Manmeet's favour as a 2-0 victory by the North Korean coach Pak U' Gill, and finally he was given the second rank in the overall selection trials. This clearly shows that different policies are adopted for different players while selecting the Indian team.

Again, similar selection trials were held at Patiala to select the Indian team for the Asian Union Table Tennis Championships to be held at Jakarta. Recently in this, R. Hari of Tamil Nadu finished second and yet could not find a place in the five member squad for the Jakarta championships.

A couple of the selection committee members were totally ignorant of Sujay Ghorpade (National junior champion) leaving for China for training during May 1982 for a period of three months. No selection committee member will dispute Sujay's being selected. But to be ignored in the selection committee deliberations is not constitutional.

Again, a six-member Indian team went to Japan for the Tokyo Open

Table Tennis Championships from 12 to 14 March 1982. Here again, some of the selection committee members were in the dark about the team's selection and not were they asked to give their composition of the team.

In view of the Asian at Delhi the Government grant was obtained to send out teams to the second Pyongyang International Table Tennis Tournament followed by training in North Korea. Japan and an International Invitation Tournament at Seoul and another Invitation Tournament in Japan. The men and women's teams were selected at Ahmednagar on 19 June, 1982 by the selection committee. Rita Jain who was only a stand by, made the trip to North Korea in spite of the fact that none of the four selected women players opted out. Subsequently, Rita went to Japan to play 'test' matches, to the Seoul International Tournament and again to play in the Japan International Tournament like a regular team member when in fact she was not even considered as a stand by for any of the above tournaments. On the contrary, Lakshmi Karanth who was a stand by for the Japan team, immediately after the Pyongyang tournament was sent back to India all alone and Rita was retained for subsequent tours.

Now coming to the discipline among the players, we have the case of Manmeet Singh who tried to cut his fingers with a glass in a fit of emotion after losing his second round match to R. Hari of Tamil Nadu. This was in the National Championships held at Palghat in December, 1981. The very same evening he left for Delhi without playing his men's doubles match. Manmeet was selected in the Indian squad for the Pyongyang International Tournament followed by a month's training in North Korea. He did not go to North Korea on medical grounds but within a week's time he was fit enough to play an Open Tournament in Bombay, beating Manjit Dua in the finals.

Again, much to the amusement of everyone, Manmeet after losing to R. Hari of Tamil Nadu in the quarter-final league of the West Zone left Ahmedabad immediately on medical grounds without playing his remaining matches. But a week later, he was fit enough to be at Seoul representing India!

These are just few examples to show that it is the player dictating terms to the supreme body, choosing where and when he wants to play

and not the selectors. And the Federation is a silent spectator without any guts to take disciplinary action in spite of the fact that majority of the selection committee members, wanted Manmeet to be dropped from the Indian squad. Again, Manmeet hit the headlines by reporting late for his team matches during the recent Tial Games and wanted his name to be included which was turned down by the Chief Referee. He left the place in a huff and later gave a letter that he should not be considered for the Asian and that he was not going to take any more part in the Tial Games. The very next day he tendered an unconditional apology and played his singles matches which he lost in the semi-finals to Kamlesh Mehta. The Federation secretary instead of taking a stern action gave a statement in the Press stating that Manmeet was young and immature and was the best for the Asian. And that when the team itself has not been finalised by the selection committee and that Manmeet is not even ranked within the first ten in India! Such unwarranted statements by responsible officials of the Federation makes it clear to all concerned that Manmeet Singh is already selected in the Indian squad in spite of all his short comings!

The TFI has selected coaches like Nihal Singh and Chawat for Nepal (Pentagonal) and the Seoul International Open Table Tennis Tournaments in 1981 and 1982 respectively. The above mentioned coaches have never played table tennis even at their State level and selecting such persons as official coaches for stalwarts like Manjit Chandrasekhar, Kamlesh, Indu Puri, Shailaja and others is an insult to their status and to senior NIS coaches like ex-National champions and internationals with wide range of experience. It may be true that there are many technical lacunae in sponsoring coaches attached to the NIS like Thiruvengadam, Bhandari and other senior internationals like Khodari, Chachad, and Kasim, in which case it is much better to nominate one of the senior most members of the squad as an advisor to the players. That is much better than having coaches like Nihal Singh and Chawat, who have absolutely no knowledge about international competitions. It also causes an amount of tension amongst the players who know probably that the coaches have earned their berth into the team by paying the passage fare.

As told to PARTAB RAMCHAND

## Australia in a spin

Abdul Qadir did it again. This time he finished with eleven wickets in the Faisalabad Test as Aussie after Aussie had no clue where to hit. **KHALID MAHMOOD** takes in Pakistan's return among the topflyers and concludes that India will have a trying time

**A**USTRALIA, headed for their worst overseas tour in years, went down and, baring Greg Ritchie, without semblance of a fight as Pakistan improved on their meagre record and won the Faisalabad Test by an innings and three runs. With Pakistan already two Tests up and one to go, the third game can only be looked forward to for academic interest and reasons of personal glory. And there could be no better ending to the game than Qadir's taking eleven wickets. He had captured five in the second innings of the first Test—and to think that he is a leg spinner. Like old times again.

Pakistan began their advent on the opening day and looked in comfortable touch. Their lead in the series showed no signs of being restored to parity and it was largely the work of Pakistan's front liners who wore the Australian attack early and kept themselves recruited to the pegging. Three wickets down for 232, in keeping with Faisalabad's tradition for inert wickets, seemed decent enough and the home side had trekked in the right direction.

For even if the score looked moderate enough for a full day's play then there were consolations thrown in as well—not forgetting the century partnership put up by Mohsin Khan and Mudassar Nazar. That Mohsin is mature enough to be etched in as one of the world's more enterprising of batsmen is not to be doubted and the fact that Mudassar is a bat weighted heavily in utility is a fact only the foolish would oppose. But for some time their working in tandem had always been an Imran dream. Quite like the fashions in other countries. A ceaseless switching of partners for Gavaskar in India, combinations galore in Blighty and now this.

Mohsin Khan and Mudassar Nazar saw out the whole morning in apparently no difficulty on a pitch that reminded more of hay, broken howling hearts and flooded score boards. The former played his shots

with much abandon, though not all ways exceeding himself. A couple of swishes did edge but that extra Mohsin power beat Hughes' scheming to it.

Mudassar, the safer foil, this time went past his normally advancing partner. He got the best out of Sleep's untidy breaks, some of them even full tosses and till even an hour after lunch they were undivided. Those figure conscious in the Press Box started humming about it being the first time in half a decade that two of Pakistan had registered a century partnership to begin the innings with.

The fairy tale ended when Mohsin Khan with 76 ventured into a hook, found the edge and Marsh behind gambolled around like a child. Pakistan were then at 123 and that ought to have thrust the reins back into the hands of Mansoor and Mudassar. On other occasions, the score might have come off in slower bursts. This time neither could have waited. Mansoor made good the threadbare Aussie howling while Mudassar too began to opt more for aggression than safety first batsmanship. But finally, he paid for it. Having taken in Border's coming on, he subsequently tried to clear the top off him, got it a trifle early, made it balloon agonisingly in the air before it cushioned out in the hands of Hughes skating mid on.

At 181 with eight men yet to fall, the issue seemed safe in Pakistan's hands but 20 runs later, Miandad was to fall. Victim of a ball kept back by Lawson, Miandad on drove but only to be taken by Laird at mid wicket.

Temporarily, Australia couldn't have asked for the better. With tea and biscuits already past, Miandad could have worked his way out of a comparatively lean period.

But the end effect was still about the same in Pakistan's favour. Mansoor Akhtar threw the reins behind him while Zaheer showed signs of avenging his lapse of the first Test.

With the younger man on 44 and Zaheer on 19, Pakistan looked set for a diving-the ball home exercise the next day. And there wasn't really much evidence to suggest that they wouldn't. Australian howlers had done little all through the three sessions. Thomson looked lacking in speed and naked venom, Sleep yearned for spells for an honest delivery that even bounced right and Bright, though not actually maltreated, hunted without any success. And you could guess what thought must have remained uppermost in Hughes' mind at the team meeting that evening over dinner. "If only I had Yardley." But the chopper blade already seemed ready for Australia's neck.

THE steamrolling continued on the second day. Pakistan resumed and the two overnight vigilance officers ensured that their chances of victory were kept beyond Australia's reach. And as the day wore on there were many who had begun to wonder where the next wicket was going to come from. For Akhtar was tipped to be the less likely man to carry the fight on for so long but on this day of steaming slaughter he realised his life's ambition and, what's more, his potential. His cutting and driving on occasions would have filled any of Ripley's editions and as long as Zaheer was 22 yards away you knew that Akhtar was being egged on. Minds went back to Idghastun, when they had been batting, and Akhtar had got his Test fifti. The thought comes back of Zaheer walking down the pitch and putting a hand on his head. As it meaning "I pass it all to thee son." And on this second day of batting brutality I saw Zaheer's glasses shielding the moist pride. Or, just perhaps.

And while Mansoor Akhtar was bent on silencing all those in the Press Box, who had said that his selection for England had been one extravagance, Zaheer it was from the other end reducing the Aussies to a species of oblivion. Seldom have I seen him actually going after the bowling with such gusto. And they say that age mellow. Zaheer hit 17 boundaries and three sixes—food for that theory!

Mansoor Akhtar finished with his baroukery at a personal mark of 111 after adding 155 with his more renowned partner while Zaheer was more suprisingly out at 126, howled Sleep. Later in the day when Hughes must have been praying for a Lillee and a Greg Chappell, Haroon Rashid stencilled his place deeper into the Pakistani side and proved right the notion that he was a better local batsman than one when pitched outside the country. The arthwart rays of the evening had Pakistan at an unreachable 501 for six. Lawson

had ended his strivings of the day with four wickets and Bright had yielded 107 in 41 overs with no wicket in exchange. Worse than that, as far as the suns given away were concerned, was Sleep. He had figures to turn one into an insomniac. One for 159 runs, if you please.

PAKISTAN did it on the third day. Just when most at the ground had begun to imagine that the match looked like heading towards a dead-duck draw Qadir struck.

By the evening of the third day he had the Aussies reduced to 141 for eight wickets, Qadir having personally accounted for half of them. Originally it was thought that the Aussies would be vulnerable to off spin, a strand that was not entirely proved in the first Test. And on this occasion, brought on early in to the firing line, he repaid the confidence by trapping Laird for eight with the score at 20. And the next Australian wicket ought to have fallen not long after, but Wood and Dyson entrenched themselves. At one stage even a draw seemed the most logical outcome. Wood had Imran at bay for some time and, while Paki fielders were more bothered changing their ends for the varying stances, the bowlers toiled. Until Qasim had Dyson in trouble for one ball, it popped and Mudassar from silly point had clutched even before it had left the bat. He had made 23.

Fourteen runs later, Mudassar was to have his moment of glory. He might never quite succeed to summon the balmy days of life spent at Lord's and Leeds but here he demonstrated how much it means to chip in with a wicket here and there. For he had Wood caught by Bari for a deserved 49. The breakthrough was made.

But those dismissals should not have been the excuse for the subsequent disaster. Hughes soon was to jump out at Qadir as if going down the walk to a lady. He lashed out, only to sky it in the air for Imran to hold and then it was Border to swing blindly outside the off stump. Most batsmen would never have played it but Border did, edged and Miandad had clutched hard to give Imran his first wicket of the innings.

Even 123 for four did not look bad enough. But in another few minutes Australia had slipped deeper into the mire. Petar Sleep was declared leg before the following ball and Abdul Qadir completed the rout by clean bowling Rod Marsh and then having Bright taken up by Haroon, both for nought! Australia managed to see out the evening at 141 for eight wickets and some journalists at the ground keeping their eyes set for a day of rest, were of one mind to check out of the hotel by the end of the fourth day. Australia never looked like having the spunk to meet the devil in the face and carrying on

the fight anything beyond the expected limit.

NEXT MORNING, Pakistan's first innings ran out of oxygen. For most of the time Greg Ritchie held the remainder of the order held together but on 167 Haroon Rashid gave proof to the opinion that the England tour must have done some good for him. Reminding one of Gatting when he had run out Miandad at Edgbaston, Rashid did a repeat at the expense of the young Ritchie. The batsman played Qasim and then almost tripped over and, while his legs were still straying, Haroon had thrown underhanded and the balls had flown.

A few balls later in the same over, with a run added to the score, Lawson swiped but was taken by a vigilant Zaheer at mid off. The light went out in Australia's dressing room almost immediately.

Asked to follow on, the visitors never really showed any signs of making a move towards an improvement. They ended the fourth evening—still lucky to be there—with 176 runs on the board with four men in the upper half of the order gone. Laird and Dyson had added 73 for the opening wicket before the latter failed to read one too well, swung and ended up putting one into Qasim's hands—off Qadir, of course. Dyson, apart from the manner of the dismissal, had every reason to be quite chuffed with himself. He had got himself 43 when every one of his colleagues was showing signs of making for the pavilion.

Again, like the happenings of the first innings, Australia looked on the way to saving the match. Nobody could have argued with the score having gone past 100 and only one wicket having fallen. But soon Laird was to make a hash of it. He muffed it in the flight while Qadir teased and was making a move back quite displeased with himself for 60. The score was 125 for two—the danger signals for Australia.

And to mount Australia's frustration Hughes went himself, unable to read Qadir's googly at 133 and a mere 29 runs later, the Aussies were to lose Border. He had mooched around for 31 till then, workmanlike runs, before he, too, succumbed to Qadir and being snapped up at short leg.

By the end of the day the Pakistani cricket authorities couldn't have but congratulated themselves for having made the right choice as far as choosing the country to play their own went. Had they lost, or even barely escaped, the mood for the series against India could never have been summoned. Now they—even Imran Khan included—are turning up their sleeves. I wonder if that

means anything. Must be

AUSTRALIA ran out of steam on the last day. The question of victory had by then been absolutely removed from the reckoning and very few journalists were thinking of laying their odds for a draw. Chances of the game going Australia's way and the series being squared were not taken into the account at all. And the possibility that Australia would at least make a fight of it looked even more remote when Sleep swept Qadir, skied to deep square leg and was taken there. The two batsmen had added 56 runs and by now smiles had come back on faces, supporters of Abdul Qadir and supporters of Pakistani cricket.

Australia went in for the sand wickets at 252 with half the side carved out—all by Qadir—but Ritchie was still there. His batting was never right out from the flashing bat school and he brought this out in essence never better than on the last day. At times he looked laborious, trudging along. But Australia couldn't want anything better as long as Ritchie, only in his second Test, was not showing intentions of leaving. In fact, he never did. He stayed around till the end of the day weathering all the Pakistanis could tease him with. And when the sun had long been past the zenith he was raising his bat for the hundred. One senses that the last has not been heard of Ritchie. Let this series be over and done with and you bet that Willis is going to go into conclave in Australia time and again this winter on just how to curb him.

Graeme Wood should have come much earlier but having caught the Pakistan tummy bug he was shifted later in the order. Normally, he would have allowed himself a comfortable latitude but now, with Australia in the cooker, he was content to play the waiting game. He was successful in seeing out the new ball, reaping from experience of years behind him.

Wood went soon after lunch and Marsh filled the breach. With only 43 runs separating Australia and the chances of making Pakistan batting again, it looked very likely that Marsh and Ritchie would pull it off. But Marsh ran himself out for only eight, Bright was rid off for no addition and Lawson could do no better.

When the last pair came together 23 were still needed and by some careful batting Thomson and the enduring Ritchie saw out a score of runs exactly. But Thomson it was who gave the fight away. He was beaten in flight, stumped by Bari and Imran Khan had won his third Test for Pakistan in four Tests. Ominous signs for India, due to land from across the border sometime in November.



# THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

PETER JORDAN reports

**W**HICH city in the world is known as the Windy City? Chicago. That is not what you would answer if you were in Brisbane on September 30 at the Queen Elizabeth II Stadium watching the opening ceremony of the XII Commonwealth Games. Even the gum trees here—normally a big attraction for the tourist's eye—had to take a back seat as southwesterly winds, sometimes reaching speeds of nearly 30 kmph whisked through as the 35 teams marched past. There was much talk about some nations boycotting the Games because of the usual South African problem but the Chairman of the Commonwealth Games Federation Sir Alexander Ross played his cards well and at the

end no nations backed out.

Red, white and blue balloons went up before zero hour. Team flag bearers looked more like parachutists as they held on grimly to their respective banners. And to crown it all the slouch hats of the Aussie soldiers were blown off as Prince Philip inspected the men in their well starched uniforms. The first day of the Games was for all practical purposes winded. Nevertheless, it was a happy start as nearly half a lakh of people packed the stadium to watch the opening ceremony of what is popularly known as the friendly games.

There were cheers for all but the lastest of all came for the two-man team from the Falkland Islands. The

dreadful days on the Hermes and the Invincible were forgotten as Rache Buyle, one of the most successful ever Australian athletes, ran around the stadium carrying a message to Queen Elizabeth. Altogether 30 runners had carried the banner on relay before it reached the stage.

Formalities over, Prince Philip declared the Games open. For the few minutes thousands of shotguns were in the limelight as they flew into snowy skies with the crack of the gun salute forming a new background.

Tomorrow there would be as intense as the competition. Ken Coe, Dyett and Rono who had dropped out because of injury probably got down to serious business.



The team from India march into the Queen Elizabeth II Stadium during the opening ceremony of the XII Commonwealth Games.



quest for golds, silvers, bronzes and what is most important—glory

Swimming was the glamour event on the first day at Brisbane, with the English girl June Croft winning the first swimming gold in style. Croft returned a time of 56.97 seconds in the 100 metres freestyle to chip about half a second from the old record. However, Croft's timing is still quite some bit behind GDR's Barbara Krause's effort at the Moscow Olympics. The hosts with thousands of cheering supporters behind them knocked almost three seconds off from the mark set by the Canadians at Edmonton in winning the prestigious men's 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay. The overconfident Canadians were pushed back into third place as Ireland bagged the silver.

It was a disastrous day for the Indians in the swimming pool as not only did none of them qualify for the finals but they had to be content with the most minor of minor placements on the heats. Anita Sund was the only one who turned in at least a commendable effort, saving when she came sixth in the heats for the 100 metres freestyle event. However, it was a good opportunity for the youngsters to know what is in store for them at the forthcoming Asian Games and winning coach Bernd Johnke stressed that the Indians were out of the pool.

The first event of the Games was the 4 x 100 metres team trial in swimming and it was in the fitness of the event that England won the gold medal. Scotland also opened their campaign with a win in the team air rifle event. India were also among the medalists. Satpal Singh and Kumbhar won a medal each in weightlifting. Satpal, by competing in the 52.56 kg category, won his two lifts in the snatch and the curls lifted a total of 227.5 kgs which was only second to England. To offset Lewis' effort, there was also occasion to open more stubbornly the Australian team for cans of beer in the Indian dressing room when Gummathar Kumbhar with a perfect total of 200 kg in the 52 kg class won the silver medal behind the Australian Nick Vonkelatus who bagged the gold.

Indian exponents of the shuttle game got off to a quiet start in the badminton events when they beat Scotland by three games to two. The first four matches were shared after which Leroy O'Sa and Kanwal Thakur Singh clinched the issue in the men's doubles.

The Indians seeded four in the team event were shocked by the Australian badminton team when they could only salvage a match against the Aussies. Syed Modi, the national champion and also seeded fourth in the individual event at the Commonwealth Games was unexpectedly beaten by the Australian teenager Darren McDonald. In another upset on the day Malaysia

who were seeded second went down to New Zealand. England and Canada the other seeded teams did not have such problems as they registered white wash wins over Scotland and Zimbabwe respectively.

As tourists got used to the pie and sauce easily available at every street-side corner the Commonwealth Games entered its second day. It was very much the day for the kangaroos with the Aussie aqua kings and queens in great form. Tracy Wickham the Australian aqua angel who had earlier had the singular privilege of taking the nation on behalf of all the participants coasted to an easy victory in the women's 800 metres freestyle. England's Jackie Wilmott showed early signs of making this race into an interesting 'War of the W's'. But the nineteen year old Australian was never really pushed

as she came within four seconds of her world record while Wilmott finished a poor third. The Canadians did have some say in the matter when they picked up medals in the women's 200 metres breaststroke through Anne Ottenbrite and of course, the great performance of Alex Baumann who swam to an easy victory in the men's 4 x 100 metre individual medley. This must surely rank as one of the most gruelling races and Baumann not only won this but showed promise of better things to come. On the whole it was a good day for the Indians, two silver medals is not bad going after all. 'Advance Australia' was played very often and the predominantly blue Australian flag fluttered in glory as their athletes repeatedly mounted the victory stand. However, the only sad part for the Australians was



SUNSHINE SMILE Judy Livermore Commonwealth Games pushed into second place by Glynnis Neill this year at B

when they were disqualified in the 4x100 metres relay for women because their third swimmer took off before the previous swimmer had touched. The Canadians who came in second were also disqualified for the same reason and eventually England were awarded the gold.

For India it was a day of mixed fortunes. M. Tamil Selvan added to his Commonwealth silver collection when he was placed second in the 60 kg category with a total lift of 245 kg. Selvan had earlier won a silver at the Edmonton Games. Dean Willey the winner of this category established a new Games mark when he lifted a total of 267.5 kg. India's other medal for this day which was one bathed with brilliant sunshine, was in the team competition for the rapid fire pistol event. Sharad Chauhan and R. K. Viji did the needful to place after Australia and Scotland.

Marian Xavier the Indian pugilist registered a victory against fancied Cus Duff of Northern Ireland but this victory was all the Indians got on this day besides the other medals. The badminton team disappointed. After registering victor-

ies against Northern Ireland and Kenya the Indians were swamped by the English who were the top seeds in the team event. With this loss India bowed out of the team event, not living upto expectations.

The Indian swimmers were once again completely out of their depth although the women managed to qualify for the 4x100 metres final. The quartet comprising Geeta Anand, Persis Madan, Anita Sood and Gisele Barocha finished fifth in the final which was won by the English team.

**T**HERE was a lot in store on Day 3 at Brisbane. Without being extended the English badminton team won the gold with a clear victory over the Canadians. The English were never really stretched in the whole tournament and came out easy winners. But the two people who were in the limelight on this day were the Tanzanian long-distance runner Gidemias Shahanga and the golden girl of the Commonwealth swimming pool Lisa Curry.

The ever smiling popular swimmer from Queensland has already put

two golds and a bronze into her bag—remember she was in the relay team that was disqualified—and must surely rank as one of the heroines of the meet. The glamour event of the swimming is always the mens 100 metres freestyle. This event was won by the 20-year-old Neil Brooks of Australia, while the second and third swimmers were also Australians—seventeen-year-old Greg Fasala and Mike Delaney. Brooks returned a time of 51.14 seconds which is still more or less a second away from the Olympiad mark of Jim Montgomery. The youngster waved a pair of souvenir swimming trunks as Prince Philip presented him with his gold medal. It was another bad day for Canada as England's Philip Hubble struck gold in the 200 metres butterfly for men.

Africans were in the limelight on the first day of the athletics events, but perhaps that was only to be expected. Shahanga was followed by Tanzanian Zakaria Barie in the 10,000 metres. England's Julian Goater led the field for most of the way at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium but had no answer to the late burst of the Tanzanian duo.

Veteran Indian welterweight pugilist Chenanda Machariah was in ruthless form as he knocked out his aggressive opponent from Ghana Amartei Amartey to move into the second round of the 67 kg class. The Ghanaian, whose head hit the canvas, took as long as two minutes to recover from the tremendous left hook that the Indian delivered. This was the only note of joy for the Indians as their weightlifters and shooters met with little luck.

**H**E is the Olympic champion. He is the European champion. And now to prove his ability beyond doubt Daley Thompson also won the decathlon athlete who have been cheered on by a partisan home crowd. Today was quite different. Thousands of Aussies burst into thunderous applause as the 24 year old British decathlete collected his medal.

Kathy Bald a typist from Ottawa proved that she was as proficient in the water as she is on the keys when she registered a shock win in the womens 100 metres breast stroke.

The Indians left their debacle in the team events behind them and instead put up a much better show in the individual events. Chenanda Machariah unleashed an array of jabs to outlast Leonidas of Tanzania. On the badminton court Pradeep Gandhe and D'sa also registered victories in the first round of the doubles events. With this the first five days of the Games are over and even the mascot—a giant mechanical kangaroo named Matilda—had something to offer. She winked much to the delight of all at the QE II stadium. Who knows Matilda might exult? Another record and probably a waltz!



Daley Thompson

# Will Bula have to switch to Maharashtra?

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL

**Y**ET another sports genius from Chittagong, the old port city of East Bengal (now Bangladesh)

First we had Dibyendu Barua, the chess wonderboy who is now setting his sights on being the first Indian Grandmaster after defeating the ex-world champion Victor Korchinor. And now we have Bula Chandhuri, the tiny swimming star of 13 who created a sensation in the recently concluded Swimming Nationals held in Delhi along with the Tital Games.

But the questions haunting every mind today are—will she have to leave her home State to get better training opportunities in order to improve her skills? Will Bengal be able to nurture this promising child swimmer and help her to proceed further up the ladder of success?

Perhaps not. At least that is the impression that this writer got after talking to Bula and her parents at their residence at Hindi Moti, a small suburban township, about an hour's drive northward from the heart of the city of Calcutta.

A medium sized two storied building which Bula's father bought a few years back from a relative who left the house because of some heretofore

ments in the family flanked by a few shanties and a small pond, is where they stay. The Chaudhuri family make you feel very welcome if you would like to have a short chat with Bula.

Sitting in a windy drawing room upstairs, containing a sofa cum bed, a few chairs and a centre table, the first question that this writer thought fit to ask was whether Bula who was then busy somewhere else had completely recovered from her illness that prevented her from going to Brisbane to take part in the Commonwealth Games.

'Yes, she is fully fit now,' replied Mrs Bakul Chandhuri, Bula's mother. 'But she is still making a lot of fuss over taking food. In fact she always does that whether she is ill or fully fit. It is something that keeps me worried about her well being whenever she is out of my sight. You know how important it is for an athlete to have meals on time and in proper quantities. Now she is very eager to go to Patiala as soon as possible. I'm afraid that she might get into trouble once again if she does not give up her bad eating habits. She has to be more careful

about her health.'

At this point Bula appeared in the doorway—short rather frail but full of life. For some time she stared at the tape recorder and then asked with a surprised look, 'Is everything being recorded here? Are you from the radio station? When will it be broadcast?' Three questions came in rapid succession while she leaned over the centre table to have a closer look at the machine.

After her questions had been answered she said 'I began to feel unwell on September 18 when I was going from the swimming pool to the Game's Village. By the evening my temperature rose to 104 degrees.'

'Oh, it was a harrowing experience,' interrupted Bula's mother. 'I was supposed to come back to Calcutta the same evening with the Bengal team. I was one of the team managers. But I was in two minds when her symptoms seemed to take a turn for the worse. I was hesitant about staying back lest people should say that despite being an official I had broken the rules just because my own daughter had fallen ill.'

'Some officials gave me the assu-



ance that they would look after her in my absence and I made up my mind to return to Calcutta. But just before leaving for the station I wanted to meet my daughter and give her a glass of milk. I went up but did not find Bula in her room. I went to the other apartments thinking that she might have been taken by the women athletes who were asked to take care of her to their rooms. But she was nowhere. I grew so nervous that I started screaming. An uncanny fear gripped me. I checked every nook and corner in a desperate bid to find her, but it was all in vain.

Finally, it was about six O'clock in the evening when an official rushed to inform me that Bula had been taken to a hospital by an ambulance. I was so anxious that I did not even ask the name of the hospital. I rushed out on the streets and asked a mahajan gentleman to give me a lift. He agreed but wanted to know where I had to go. I could not answer.

At last when somehow I managed to reach the hospital I found Bula lying almost unconscious and being given cold compresses every half hour to bring the fever down. That decided the matter. I had to stay at the hospital for ten days, with only a

few friends and well wishers visiting us from time to time.

Now it was Bula's turn to speak when this correspondent asked for her version. 'I was almost recovered by the twentieth and there was some talk of my going to the Games with the German coach.'

At this stage her mother broke in again. 'The strange thing is that Mr. Johnke did not visit the hospital to see Bula, though it was said that he stayed back only to take Bula to the Games. The last time I saw him was at the swimming pool.'

The question that remained unanswered was why the team did not materialise. Nobody, neither her father nor her mother, seemed to know the reason. 'I consistently heard that Bula was going first on the 23rd then on the 25th and finally on the 27th. We just kept on hoping for the best but strangely nothing happened. True, she might not have been 100 per cent fit then, but she would have got a few days' rest at Bisham, also,' said her mother.

At this point Bula's father remarked, 'And the girl they took in Bula's place fell ill after reaching there. I have serious doubts if she was totally fit at the time of the

team's departure. Could be she was already suffering from fever before she went.'

Bula's father was perhaps justified in expressing his anguish, considering the trouble he had been through. When Bula was selected the All India authorities asked the Bengal Swimming Federation to deposit the required Rs 7000. The association had a few meetings and took a decision that Bula's parents had no knowledge of. Anxious to ensure that no obstacle should emerge, and also going by the suggestion of the All India body, who required an assurance about the deposit money, Mr Chaudhuri sent a personal note to the effect that he himself would deposit the amount. Later, some BSA authorities reportedly assured him that he need not worry about it. This was not his headache.

Strangely, when there were only two minutes to go before the team's departure, an official asked me to pay the deposit, said Mr Chaudhuri angrily adding, 'I was quite surprised to say the least. They did not inform me about it and now they wanted the money from me at the platform. When I expressed surprise they referred to my assurance which I had given before. But the association is supposed to pay. I was safe regarding my daughter's interests. In any case, nothing could be done at that stage. So they went to Delhi without the money and I had sleepless nights, anxious about whether Bula would get a chance to go to Bisham.'

Later, it was reported that Bula's father had sent 4000 from Calcutta. The BSA contributed only Rs 3000.

'I was desperate about ensuring that she would not be excluded through no fault of her own. When they were leaving for Delhi I requested the officials repeatedly to do something. To think that such a talented girl should be denied a once in a life time opportunity was just too much to bear,' concluded Mr Chaudhuri. After all this, is it unjustifiable for one to seek all possible means to ensure one's success?

But Bula and her father have doubts whether they should accept offers which might lead people to misunderstand them. Recently they received an offer from Maharashtra's D H Nanavati, father of Sonal Nanavati. On the basis of this offer, Bula will be sent to a European country for a 16 month training course under the sponsorship of the Maharashtra Swimming Association.

'In this case,' said Bula's mother, 'Bula will have to switch her allegiance from Bengal to Maharashtra. That is difficult of us to accept. We have approached the West Bengal Government to find out if they can do anything similar for Bula, because she does need foreign training. If they can't help us, that would be our last resort.'



SFC view

# ASIAD VENUES

1. ADMIN BUILDING

## Right on target

The Asiad '82 has brought a windfall to many sports. To benefit most will be India's shooters as they now get one of the world's best shooting complexes at historic Fughlakabad, 12 kilometres from the Asian Games Village at Siri Fort.

The ancient city of Fughlakabad, living in the rubble of history for the last 600 years, will reverberate once more to the festive sound of sport. One of the world's best shooting range complexes has been laid on 128 acres of land at the site where the Fughlaks used to hunt. Once more the sound of gunfire will be heard in this hazy setting, with one difference. This time there will be no live prey.

The Delhi Development Authority had the responsibility of the construction. Mr. R. A. Khemant was the chief engineer, Mr. J. S. Puri the architect and Mr. J. S. Vardajan the electrical engineer.

The ranges and other facilities provided here are:

1. Administrative Building
2. 50 metre Range
3. 26-metre Pistol Range
4. 10 metre Air Rifle Range
5. Two Trap Ranges and
6. Two Skeet Ranges

What makes the complex one of the finest is the fact that the targets for the various events are all in the same complex. This is

not always the case. In Edmonton, for example, almost a 100 kilometres separated the different ranges. Moreover, being in a single place, the efficiency and the effectiveness of both participants and officials will greatly increase.

The doyen of all shooters, the septuagenarian Maharaja of Kota after seeing the complex remarked, "It will be a pleasure to participate in events on these ranges." Ace shooter Randhir Singh, who won a gold medal at the Eighth Asiad, reacted with the same enthusiasm. Randhir commented that, "this is going to be the most modern and sophisticated shooting range in Asia. The other such shooting range is in Seoul."

The Fughlakabad Shooting Range Complex can boast of a tremendous safety margin. Of the 128 acres in which the complex is planned, only 11 acres have been used for the actual shooting ranges themselves. The rest of the area has been consumed for spacing out the different ranges. This will have two advantages. First, the distances between any two ranges will be large enough for the noise from

one range not to disturb participants in the next. Secondly, the very same distance between ranges will contribute to greater safety.

The 15-metre (22) rifle range and 10 metre air rifle range have been designed for 60 shooting positions in keeping with the latest international standards. There is provision to increase the shooting positions to 100 to meet Olympic standards. For the Asiad, however, only 40 shooting positions will be used. The 25 metre pistol range has a provision of eight shooting sets along with two trap and two skeet ranges for clay pigeon shooting. The pistol range can be extended up to 12 shooting sets besides providing for three trap and three skeet ranges. Further, if at any time there is need for a 300 metre rifle range it can easily be provided on the eastern side in quick time.

The rapid fire events will take place on the 25-metre range which has eight shooting sets. Each set has five electronically controlled turning targets. Each of the eight sets is controlled by a mini computer.

To ensure proper communication between the shooter and the target operator, intercom facilities have been provided. A special feature of the range design is that participants will have access to inspect the target personally. This they will do by using walkways incorporated in the design for the first time anywhere.

Another novel feature of the Fughlakabad complex is that it possesses a clay pigeon manufacturing machine.

For the 400 participants expected for shooting events during the Asiad, a special camping area has been earmarked to the west of the 15 metre range. Here tents will be pitched, one for each contingent. In the trap and skeet participants separate rest rooms have been constructed as a permanent facility.

Shooting was first included in the Asian Games in the Second Asiad in 1954.

During the Ninth Asian Games there will be ten events and the competitions will be held over ten days from November 22 to December 2 with Nov. 29 being the rest day.

**DUNLO.**

*lead the way*



# SRIKKANTH: Back to the fore

The Tamil Nadu star, who had a string of remarkable successes against the visiting Sri Lankans, talks to

**PARTAB RAMCHAND**

**K**•SRIKKANTH Born at Madras on December 21, 1959. Besides his fairly meteoric rise in Indian cricket he has also been an excellent student. He secured a first class in his electrical engineering course when he passed out from Periyar Anna University of Technology in May 1981. Srikanth's English is as fast and fluent as his strokeplay. He answered the questions in a most lively manner during the hour and a half long interview.

**SPORTSWORLD** How far back can you trace your interest in cricket?

**K SRIKKANTH** I suppose I was the average cricket mad youngster. Like every other Indian boy, I started playing the game anywhere—at home, in the school, on the road. From the seventh standard to the tenth standard I played for my school Vidya Mandir in the TNCA Schools Junior tour.

In the eleventh standards—my final year at school—I was in the same team. Then in 1976 I did my pre-University course at the Vivekananda College and played for the college team. I played for the junior State team in the Inter Association

Cricket Tournament in 1977-78 and 1978-79. My good scores in the latter season—84 and 74—run out against Kerala, 105 and 74 against Hyderabad and 77 against Karnataka helped me get a place in the State team.

**SW** Tell us about your State debut.

**KS** I was not successful in my first year. My first match was against Kerala at Trivandrum and I got only eight. The next match was against Karnataka at Madras and I got only six. In both these games I batted at

*Srikanth head on hand greaves for staying out of the crease. Embrey ran him out from midwicket.*





**SW:** How did you become an opening batsman then?

**KS:** Actually, throughout my school career I used to bat in the middle order—anything between three and six. Then one day while at college the regular opening batsman was absent and the captain asked me whether I would open.

I readily agreed and got 48. I have preferred opening the batting since then. But in the first few matches for the State there were plenty of opening batsmen—Ramesh Sivaramakrishnan, Krishnaswamy Adams and myself. Su, being the junior player, I went down the order.

**SW:** When did you first open for the State?

**KS:** Only in 1979-80 when I opened with Sivaramakrishnan against Hyderabad at Madras. I got 66 and we had a century stand. After that I have regularly been opening the batting.

**SW:** Did you receive the benefit of any coaching during those formative years?

**KS:** I attended the camp conducted by Mushtaq Ali in Madras in the summer of '74. Then both in 1976-77 and 1978-79 I attended the all India camps conducted by Hemu Adhikari. I have also had the benefit of many useful tips from local coaches here.

**SW:** Which would you think was the first season that brought you into the national limelight?

**KS:** Though I did play for the Indian Under 22 team against the West Indies in 1978-79, I guess the season that brought me to the fore-front was 1979-80. In fact, I would class that as among my best seasons.

I got that 166 against Hyderabad and was selected for South Zone against Pakistan at Hyderabad in January 1980. I got 90 and 17. That 90 was first important knock from the national angle. The runs then continued to flow.

In the Deodhar Trophy at Delhi I got 77 not out against East Zone and 28 against West Zone. Then came the Vizzy Trophy. I got 52 and 122 against West Zone and 52 and 146 against North Zone.

I am even today particularly proud of that 146. We were trailing by 127 runs on the first innings and then turned the tables on them for a fine victory. Everyone said it was because of my innings. My 146 was made off 93 balls and I hit four sixes—three of successive balls.

In one particular over I got 26 runs. And I got the runs against an attack that included Kirti Azad, Sunil Valsan, Rajinder Singh Ghal and Anil Kumble. This made it a total of five hundreds in as many matches.

**SW:** So now we come to the 1980-81 season.

**KS:** Yes, this was a crucial year for me. It brought me close to national selection. The season started with

## CRICKET BROTHERHOOD

### Running in the family

**“I DON'T come from a cricketing family”, says Srikanth. “There was absolutely no cricketing blood in the family when I was born”. But now he is very much part of a closely cricketing-knit family.**

Srikanth's younger sister Snehal married State and sonal medium pacer Bharath Kumar in August 1979. One has heard of brothers playing in the same State or national teams but it is rare to have brothers-in-law playing for the same team. Bharath Kumar made his debut for Tamil Nadu in 1977-78. Srikanth made his debut the next year. Bharath Kumar made his Duleep Trophy debut in 1979-80 and played for South Zone for three years till he was dropped this year.

While it is rare enough to have brothers-in-law playing in the same team, we may well have the even rarer sight of two brothers and their brother-in-law playing for the State team. Srikanth's younger brother Srinath, 20, is an opening batsman cast in the same mould. In fact there are those who say that right now he is more secure in defence (besides having all the strokes) than Srikanth was at his age. Surely it is only a matter of time before Srinath plays for the State—some say it may even be this year—and that will be a sight rare enough to find a place in any record book.

Bharath Kumar and Snehal have a son—Abhishhek, born in November 1981—and Srikanth who is “very superstitious” admits that his nephew is his “lucky charm or whatever you may call it. He was born and almost immediately I got those important runs that brought me into the Test team last year,” he says.



the Deodhar Trophy in Madras and I got 82 against East Zone, 17 against North and 28 against West.

This was followed by the Wills Trophy and playing for the Board President's XI. I got 100 and 48 in the Moin Ud Daula Tournament. I scored 39 and 109 against Nilons.

The Irani Trophy came up next and that was the crucial match. I did not do well, getting only 27 and 11. Had I done well in that match, I feel I might have been selected to tour Australia and New Zealand.

Then I did not play in the Duleep Trophy because I had my final examinations and missed a couple of Ranji matches for the same reason. In the league I played only against Hyderabad where I got 88 and against Karnataka when I got 172, my first century in the Ranji Trophy. In the knockout stage I got 50 and 98 against Hariana and 9 and 51 against Bombay.

**SW:** And what have you got to say about the season that finally brought you the national selection that you had been striving for?

**KS:** Yes, this was another crucial year for me. But then a run every year seems to be becoming crucial for me (laughs). I started the season by getting 65 and 48 in the Deodhar Trophy. Then I got a run of decent scores in the Wills Trophy. In the Duleep Trophy against East Zone, I got 51 and 51.

I am particularly fond of these knocks for they were patronised by my standards and the 51 was made in a running track. Then I led the Indian Under 22 team against England at Pune and got 87 and 74. Finally I got 66 and one playing for the Board President's XI against England at Nagpur and was selected for both the one day international and the first Test at Bombay.

**SW:** Did you expect to be selected for the Test side?

**KS:** In a way, yes. I guess I had enough runs to impress the selectors but I was deadly nervous at the time of the first Test. I got a duck in the first innings. In the second innings I thought I was progressing well but was out foolishly.

**SW:** Do you know that even Len Hutton started his Test career with a duck?

**KS:** That is a comforting thought!

**SW:** Anyway, how do you account for your improved performance at Bangalore?

**KS:** Well, the first aspect to consider is the fact that this time I was not nervous, but exceedingly calm. Secondly, I had decided on a strategy that I had formed while playing in the previous match for South Zone against the visitors at Hyderabad.

I had made 23 and 31, in the process hooking a bouncer from Willis for a six. But shortly after that I got out trying another hook. By the time of the Bangalore Test, I had made up my mind. I knew the En



A happy cricketing family. Srikkanth's parents are in the front. In the rear (from left) are Srekaladevi Srikkanth's sister who is married to K. Bharath Kumar, the State and Zonal medium pacer. Srikkanth's younger brother Srinath is sitting next to Bharath Kumar while Srikkanth is at extreme left. His mother holds Abhishek in her lap.

glish bowlers had discovered my penchant for the hook shot and would try to feed me on those lines and try to get me out.

I normally don't like ducking under a bouncer. I prefer to hook them. But this time I had formed a definite strategy. I said to myself that if there were two men deep on the legside placed for the hook shot, I would avoid it and duck under the bouncer.

But if there was only one man guarding the area I would go for the hook. Thus one will notice that most of my 65 runs were made through hooks and flicks. I was patient and was in no hurry but again I got out like a fool cutting at Botham and was caught at slip.

But I was happy at doing well. Moreover, it helped me fulfil a personal ambition. This ambition had been to partner the great Sunil Gavaskar in a century stand for the first wicket in a Test.

SW: What about the two subsequent Tests you played?

KS: At Delhi I scored six. I hit a four while cover driving Willis off the back foot and in trying to repeat the stroke, was bowled off the inside edge of the bat. Possibly I was overconfident.

At Calcutta I knew I had to do well to retain my place. In the first innings I was bowled trying a very ambitious stroke off the first ball bowled by Underwood. In the second innings I decided to put my head down and even now I rate that 25 as a better knock than the 65 at Bangalore. I was not beaten, I was middling the ball very well and had four good drives, two off Willis and two off Botham, which raced to the fence.

The ball that got me out was one I should normally have hit for a four.

It was short and on the leg stump, but I was over-cautious and only tapped it and Botham at silly mid on held a good catch.

SW: After the Calcutta Test did you expect to be dropped?

KS: Yes. I think the selectors had given me enough chances and were right in dropping me from the side for the Madras Test.

SW: But wouldn't you have liked playing before your own crowds and on your own ground?

KS: I certainly would have, but I repeat that the selectors were right in dropping me.

SW: So what were your plans after the Test series was over?

KS: Well, I knew that I had to get good scores in the knockout matches if I was to get back in the Indian team which would tour England in the summer.

But I failed to get runs in the remaining games. Against Kerala I got ten and zero, against Uttar Pradesh, 25 and 101 and finally against Delhi 4 and 24. The Delhi match was vital and had I got runs there I feel I might have been selected. But I did not and that was that.

SW: So we come to the current season. What were your feelings in the off-season?

KS: I was conscious of the fact that I had not taken full advantage of the many chances that were given to me. I was determined to get back into the team in the new season.

Apparently, what I lacked was determination, dedication and application. I had to cut out risks, choose the right ball to hit and be more secure in my defence. With all these I was not going to curb my natural strokes, because I knew I could not get runs otherwise.

SW: And how far have you gone in achieving this objective?

KS: Well, I would say so far so good, even if I have not achieved it fully. In the one-day matches against Sri Lanka I got 57, 95 and 92. Again my impetuosity cost me my wicket in those innings and I resolve not to be so rash again.

SW: At Bangalore you did get out to a rash stroke when it seemed like you would get a hundred.

KS: Yes, I gave myself too much room to try and cut and left my stumps exposed. That stroke has cost me my wicket several times and I must try to avoid it in future.

SW: I overheard Gavaskar rebuking you for getting out the way you did.

KS: Yes, I know. He usually does that.

SW: How would you refute the charge that you are a one-day cricketer rather than a five-day cricketer?

KS: I wouldn't say that the charge is correct. I am not essentially a one-day cricketer. Perhaps my natural game is more suited to one-day cricket. But would you say that my record in the Ranji Trophy and Duleep Trophy matches is bad?

I examine my scores. Compare them to one-day matches. My game is suited to both. But maybe it is more suited to one-day games. Whatever runs I get, I get quickly. Let it be one day, three day or five day matches.

For example, my 172 against Karnataka—it was a three-day match—came in 204 minutes off 154 balls. I hit 22 fours and three sixes.

I am always determined to get runs and I don't play by time. If I can get a hundred in three hours, why should I bat for five or six hours for the same score? I always go by the maxim "Attack is the best form of defence." I look for a run off every ball.

SW: How would you describe your approach to batting?


KS: For me, the first ten or 20 runs are very important. This stage helps my confidence a great deal. When I am on 20, I say to myself, "Okay now, let's get that 30." And when I am 30 I say, "Come on, let's get that 40" and so on.

As you might have noticed I play the cut very rarely. I normally play it only after crossing 50 or when I am seeing the ball very well and have judged the howling and the pace off the wicket.

SW: Would you say you are stronger on the leg-side?

KS: That's the impression people have of me. But I don't think so. My favourite shot is the off-drive and I love to drive any close ball that I receive.

But who gives you a close ball these days? In top class cricket you only get howling that is just short of a length. Against England for example I got a lot of short balls and bouncers and so naturally had to pull.



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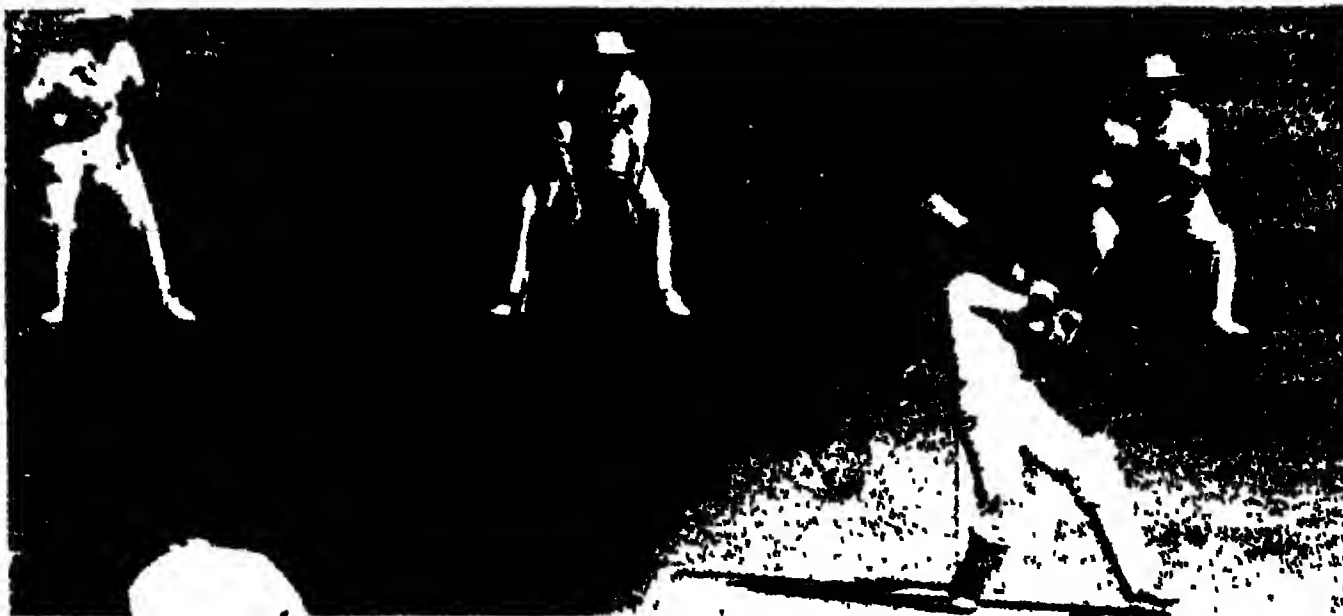
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*Srikanth hooks Botham to the square leg fence during his innings of 87 for the Indian Under-22 against England at Pune in 1981-82*

or hook them

**SW:** You are an opening batsman yet your technique is so different from others of your breed. How would you describe your pattern of play?

**KS:** Mine is basically an eye game. I depend so much on my two eyes. I see the ball a bit early. I know that maybe I am not technically sound. My defence is not very strong.

Some shots that I play are my own shots. They just can't be from any coaching manual. I play a lot of instinctive shots—shots that I could not possibly play again.

For example, against England at Pune while playing for the Indian Under-22 team in the second innings, I received a short ball from Botham outside the off-stump. I struck it over point for a six. Now I obviously can't play that shot again.

One thing I do know. I have decided to curb trying to lift the medium-pacers. I have tried it often. Sometimes it pays off and at other times it does not. Anyway, I have decided to curb it. But it will continue to step out to spinners and lift them over the straight field. The element of risk there is considerably less.

**SW:** Have you received any advice from your colleagues, past players, selectors and officials on this aspect?

**KS:** No one has told me that he has anything against my basic game. Everyone has told me to play my natural game and not to change it whatever happens. They have only advised me to be more careful and choose only the bad ball to hit.

**SW:** What do you think are your basic faults?

**KS:** My basic fault is over-confidence. I hit a bowler for two fours then I aim for a third. I must learn to control myself and get out of

this over-confident nature.

**SW:** Are there any cricketers whom you have admired?

**KS:** Yes, I do have three heroes. Vishwanath was my first boyhood idol. It was a great feeling to play alongside him in the Tests.

I greatly admire Viv Richards as well. His batting is real far out. My third hero is Lillee. I think it is great of him to have come back into the game so strongly after such a serious back injury.

**SW:** How far has your family helped your cricketing career?

**KS:** My dad is a businessman. Basically I come from a very religious family. Our belief in numerology is very strong. We do everything according to numerology.

Two instances of this are my name and that of my sister Srikanth. Otherwise it is normally spelt Srikanth and Srekala is usually spelt Srikala.

I am also very superstitious. You may have seen some of my mannerisms—looking at the sun, touching my pads, twirling my bat and so on, before every delivery. For some time last year I had given up these mannerisms, but I find they are slowly becoming part of my game again. While batting, I normally sing to myself—either film songs or slokas. This, I find, relieves the tension.

**SW:** Name some of your best knocks.

**KS:** The best knock I think would be the 90 for South Zone against Pakistan, at Hyderabad in 1979-80. Again, all my shots came off and the attack was a good one with Imran bowling really fast bouncers. The attack also included Iqbal Qasim, Abdul Qadu and Ehteshamuddin.

It was also a very vital innings for me because it brought me nearer to national recognition. Close behind this would rank my 146 for South Zone against North Zone in the Vizzy Trophy final the same season. I look

back at this knock with satisfaction because it helped turn the tables on our opponents and we went on to win from a seemingly hopeless position. After these two would come my 65 in the Bangalore Test and the 172 against Karnataka.

**SW:** Among your two Ranji Trophy centuries, which do you rank the better?

**KS:** The 172 against Karnataka was the better of the two in my opinion. It was a good aggressive innings. It was not very chancy as far as my knocks usually go. Also, I believe that Tamil Nadu had not got a bonus point against Karnataka for twenty years and they got it in that match. I feel proud that my century contributed to it.

**SW:** A lot has been made of the fact that you don't even use a cap let alone a helmet, while batting, when batsmen these days use a lot of protective gear. What have you got to say to this?

**KS:** I can only say that so far I have never really felt the need for a helmet. Honestly. But I may probably wear it one day. Who knows?

**SW:** Do you enjoy fielding?

**KS:** I like fielding anywhere in the outfield from the covers to deep third man, mid wicket to long leg. I don't like standing at slip, though I did stand at short leg in the four Tests I played.

**SW:** What are your hobbies?

**KS:** I like Western music and Hindi films songs. I read books only once in a while and only rarely read cricket books. My idea of relaxation is to sit with my old college mates on the Elliotts' Beach culvert and chat away the hours.

**SW:** What are your future plans?

**KS:** First to regain my place in the Test side and then to play for India as long as I can. I would like to be known and remembered as an enterprising batsman.







NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

## Two for the future

AMRIT MATHUR dwells on the prospects of two promising Delhi cricketers, Gursharan and Maninder Singh

ASK the senior players or the experts to name some outstanding young cricketers in India today. Compare the lists. Two names—Maninder and Gursharan Singh—are bound to appear repeatedly. And no wonder for the potential of these super Sikhs of Delhi, one a left arm spinner and the other a right hand batsman, is absolutely overwhelming.

Said Chetan Chauhan, a veteran of 15 seasons of first class cricket and no mean judge of talent. "They are very, very good. Both have talent in heaps. I would be surprised if they don't represent the country for a long time." Sharing these senti-

ments though a bit guardedly, was none other than Bishan Singh Bedi. "They are terrific for their age. They will surely go far."

They have already travelled quite an impressive distance—in just one season. Gursharan, a second year Hindu College student is 19 (born on 8 March, 1963) and Maninder is only 17 (born on 13 June, 1965). Yet, both are playing for North Zone and even distinguishing themselves. The past season was particularly happy for both, Gursharan playing two superb innings getting centuries off Karnataka and England. Maninder himself got 40 Ranji wickets from only five matches bagging five wickets on

more in an innings on four occasions.

Besides success, skill and Sikhism these two boys share a lot more things. They went to the same school, Bal Bhairi Air Force, and were coached by Gurcharan Singh, a person who has produced almost the entire swarm of talent presently spilling out of North Zone. Gursharan, revealed coach Gurcharan, was spotted rather fortuitously. "He was recommended to me by someone who saw him play in a park. I called him to the nets. His potential was unmistakable. I had him shifted to Bal Bhairi where they encouraged sports and took him under my fold."

Progress was instantaneous as Gursharan immediately set about demolishing the bowlers. He made his mark for the first time in 1979-80 when, playing for the North Zone schools, he hit 41 and 100 not out against Central Zone. The following year he got 70 off Haryana and 102 versus East Zone. Such success in the schools' tournaments brought him swiftly into the Under 22 team. And scores of 45 not out, 48 and 64 not out enabled him to find a place in the North Zone side. Gursharan didn't fail here either. He promptly cracked 115 against the West in the finals.

This astonishing flood of runs continued unabated in the 1981-82 season. Gursharan scored centuries in C. K. Nayudu Trophy (120 against Haryana), the Inter Varsity tournament (130 against Calcutta) and in the Ranji Trophy (101 against Karnataka). Playing for the Indian Under 22 versus England he got 101 and 31 not out when Willis, Botham, Dilley, Allott, Emburey were playing. A fifth century in the season was narrowly missed when he was dismissed at 90 by Central Zone.

But there were failures, too. Touring England with the Under 19 team Gursharan didn't exactly excel. Then he flopped in some important Ranji matches besides the North Zone game against England.

These failures were actually only minor aberrations in what was a glittering string of successes. And what makes Gursharan Singh ("Pal") more pleasing is his humility. While describing his century against England he was characteristically modest. "The wicket was meant for batting. It was straight and had an even bounce. The ball hardly did anything. Though Willis' balls rose, Botham, Dilley, Allott were straight. Emburey also got no turn."

The other marvellous knock that Gursharan played was in the Ranji final. He scored a fine century, playing at number three for the first time when Delhi were chasing Karnataka's mammoth 705. In a match that produced more than 1400 runs, his was by far the best knock. Said Gursharan, "Mohinder had an upset stomach so he asked me to go on—down and play straight. I was determined to make good as I had failed



Gursharan Singh

in the earlier matches. The wicket was lovely and I thought that if they can make 700 runs, then so can we." Gursharan Singh's technique, thanks to coach Gurcharan, is sound. His stance is upright and easy and being short (5'7"), he does not have to bend too much. Watch him play a forward defensive shot and you realise that the basics of batting are correct. He really gets over the ball, head down, the left elbow is out, the front knee bent, the right hand loose. Anything short and Gursharan is right behind, back and across.

More important, he is a bright stroke-player with a penchant for hitting between mid-wicket and mid-on. He plays straight and refrains from the cut or the pull. Further, he has the qualities that only the accomplished players possess. His centuries testify that Gursharan has the ability to play and build a long innings. His concentration is intense and the timing, an unfailing indication of class, is most pleasing.

"His greatest quality", said Chauhan, "is his maturity. He is very cool. Doesn't panic in a tight situation." Added Surinder Khanna, Gursharan's team-mate, "Palli is a class player. He is simply superb on the leg side. I haven't seen any youngster as good as him." Coach Gurcharan too was understandably ecstatic. "I'm very happy that he has become a fine player who has all the shots. He is a good boy. Simple and hard working. A willing worker, he never complains. I hope he plays for India soon."

Before he does that, however, Gursharan's batting could do with some improvements. Conceded that he is very good on the on side but at times you get the impression that he is trying to hit every thing, even balls pitching around off stump, through mid wicket. Agrees Chauhan. "Yes, he must correct this or he would be in great trouble if the ball leaves him. Basically, I think, he needs two years in Ranji Trophy." If Maninder is presently better known than Gursharan then it is only because he made a name for himself a season earlier. In 1980-81 playing in the C. K. Nayudu Trophy matches, he got about 40 wickets from five games and in the following year, was elevated to the Ranji level at Bishan's behest. He repeated the performance. He took exactly 40 wickets again from 5 matches, now at 14.57 each.

Remarkably, even at 17 Maninder's bowling technique is extremely correct. The action is flawless, in the final stride the body is side-on and the right arm reaches for the sky before the left descends gracefully. The ball, after landing, breaks a good deal moving nippily towards slip. His greatest asset, however, is the bounce he obtains even from pitches that normally don't yield much.



Maninder Singh

Being a Sikh and a left arm spinner, led inevitably to unnecessary comparisons with Bishan Singh Bedi. What excited the critics more was the fact that Bishan took a personal interest in the lad. But Bishan and Maninder are different bowlers. Bishan was a little slower and his teasing flight was superbly controlled. Maninder, on the other hand, is taller and a shade quicker through the air.

Remarked B. S. Rattan, former manager of the Delhi team and an old mate of Bishan's. "Maninder's greatest asset is the sting in his turn. Maybe he is as talented as Bishan was at this age but I am not sure. I think Bishan had a superior mind."

That Maninder has to learn a trick or two before he can think of attaining the heights Bishan scaled is very obvious. "He needs to bowl more at the middle and off rather than outside the off," confessed coach Gurcharan Singh. "Manni should attack more. His direction could also do with some improvement."

Rattan was more explicit. "Like all NIS bowlers, he is too defensive. He ought to make the ball come in from the blind side of the right-hander and invite the dangerous shot over mid wicket. Moreover, he must be made aware of his qualities and made to work hard."

At the moment he is doing just that under the watchful gaze of Bishan Bedi and Gurcharan Singh. "He will learn quickly," said Chetan Chauhan. "I like him because he is a serious boy who listens when you tell him something. He has the talent, the brain and the ambition. He really wants to succeed."

Not that he isn't succeeding already. Last year, Maninder toured England, later captained a junior team to the West Indies and on both trips got a bagful of wickets. "We got good wickets which helped us. It didn't rain much in England and it was almost like playing in India. But the batsmen there have little idea of spin bowling. They come forward and grope or take a wild swing," he said.

Gursharan and Maninder are, as they say, on the threshold of "long and distinguished careers." Barring a crippling dose of ill fortune, of course. Currently, both are immersed in cricket. If not playing they are thinking about the game. Studies are secondary and other distractions are not tolerated either. Gursharan visits the gurdwara regularly and Maninder's devotion is no less. His scrap book is so elaborate that it even contains the coin with which he won the toss in an important school game.



IFA SHIELD FINAL

# MOHUN BAGAN: Six of the best

CHUNI GOSWAMI reviews the IFA Shield tournament

TO win any tournament for six years on the trot is in itself a great achievement. But to achieve this feat in the prestigious IFA Shield is undoubtedly all the more greater. And this is just what Mohun Bagan did as they registered their 15th triumph in a tournament once the Blue Riband of Indian football, but now surely with a patch of grey. The red and green shirts have advanced the message they had lost in the years of flame and on the whole they have had a good season this year considering the fact that they had lost in the Federation Cup.

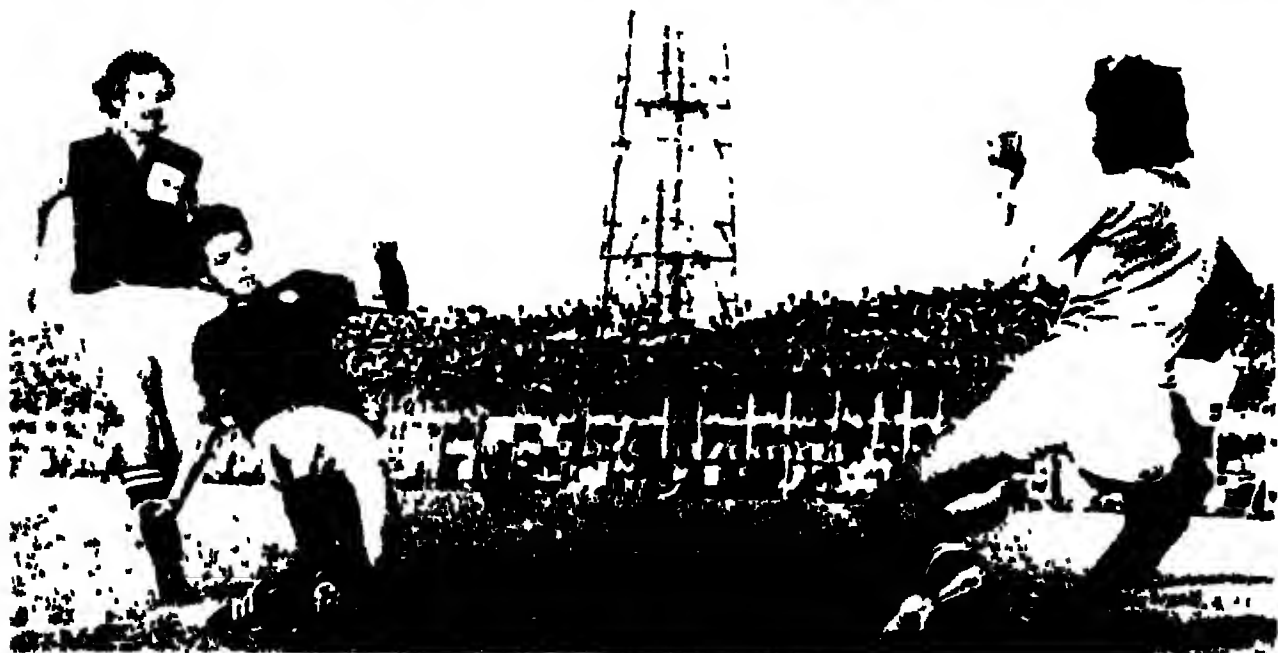
Most people are of the opinion that the quality of football dished out at the last few IFA Shield tournaments have not been up to the mark. Why only place the IFA Shield? One cannot get away from the fact that East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting are still the three top teams in the country. They played in this year's IFA Shield

and as such represent the standard of Indian football. The state of the game in India is itself in the doldrums and the IFA Shield is just another tournament where this point is driven home.

The only reason I can think of as to why teams from other centres in India do not come to play in the IFA Shield is that they are not used to the monsoonic weather in Bengal. Over the years matches have been played in the IFA Shield on quagmires. I particularly remember an incident from the 1950s to illustrate the point. Hyderabad Police had won the Rivers Cup for five years in row but had never managed to win this Calcutta tournament. In pursuit of this objective they came to Calcutta a month before the Shield started to get acclimatised. Even this did not help and the Police team failed to win. Thus we see that it is the local teams that have always dominated this tournament.

Coming back to this year's tournament, I think it could have been a good idea if the Indian team preparing for the Asiad would have taken part. This would have given them good match practice and would have been a stage rehearsal for the Asiad. Moves could have been worked out by trial and error and the team would have benefited. All the AIFF had to do was to pass a resolution allowing the Indian team, or perhaps even two, the India Blue and India White to take part. This move would have made the tournament all the more competitive and also—because of playing in virtually a home crowd—would have surely helped to boost the sagging spirit of P.K. Banerjee's boys after the debacle at the Merdeka. Even the Indian juniors could have been included and this would have further increased spectator interest.

League champions East Bengal were upset by Mohammedan Sport-



Shyam Thapa, scoring the match winner for Mohun Bagan while Moidul Islam, the Mohammedan Sporting skipper, watches helplessly.

ing in the semi-final while Mohun Bagan did not have many problems against the Harwood League champions Mahindra and Mahindra. The green and maroon shirts must have surely started as favourites in the final played on their home ground. Just a word about the distribution of tickets. Critics maintain that there is no 'public sale' of tickets. This is not true because in the ultimate analysis it is the public (club members and their friends) who finally get to see the match.

I have never been a statistician as far as football records go and it was only a few minutes before the match started that I was informed that this was the first time Mohun Bagan were playing Mohammedan Sporting in the final of the IFA Shield. These two teams have been around in Calcutta football for over half a century and it was indeed surprising that this was the first time they were meeting in the Shield final. Mohun Bagan's victory helped them set up a record which I believe will be a difficult one to break. Even though in three out of the six victories they had to be content with sharing the Shield, Mohun Bagan's fifteen triumphs are a noteworthy effort.

**T**HE victory of Shyam Thapa's boys in the final was neither sudden nor unexpected. Except for a few anxious moments in the first half, Mohun Bagan undoubtedly enjoyed a major share of the exchanges. They proved in the ninety minutes of the game that they were the superior team. However, it would be hypocritical to say that the game was an excellent one. It was for the most part nothing out of the ordinary. Undoubtedly the match was played at a good pace but none of the teams wanted to take any risks. As in all "big matches" there is a tremendous amount of pressure and the nerves are considerably taxed. Even with all this pressure the match was played in the best of spirits and on no occasion did any of the players commit a deliberate foul. Matches have to be won but there is no use winning them at all costs. One has to always be within the rules of the game and for this I would like to congratulate both the teams for their clean performance. Even though the competitive spirit was there, there were occasions when the game took a dreary course with the ball being confined to the midfield.

The first thing that comes to one's mind as one looks back on the final are the three goals that were scored. Krishanu Dev, in my opinion, is one of the best ball players in the city today and holds a lot of promise. No doubt he is basically a one foot player but then it is better to have a good kick with a left foot than no kick at all. Krishanu has had a good season this year and should go places in the near future. I am sure he must have been a very happy man after scoring



Jamshid Nasiri, scoring the equalizer

the first goal of the final fifteen minutes after the match started.

Young Bikash Panji playing as a linkman passed the ball onto Ulaganathan who in turn found Krishanu Dey. The last named was at a virtual zero degree angle from the Sporting goalpost. Shyam Thapa, the Bagan skipper and the opportunist Amitava Mukherjee were lying handy right in front of the goalmouth. Everyone on the ground, including the Mohammedan Sporting custodian Pratap Ghosh, thought that Krishanu would back centre the ball to one of his team-mates. Krishanu had other intentions and seeing that the goalkeeper was waiting for the crosspass, decided to take the shot at the goal himself. Hey Presto! Mohun Bagan were a goal up. Their fans in delirium. The goal proved beyond doubt that this young left legged player has all the makings of a star footballer. However, he does need more experience, needs to sharpen his reflexes and must learn exactly when to release the ball. I am sure with a couple of years more experience, Krishanu is bound to blossom into one of the leading players in the country.

Nevertheless, the first goal of Mohun Bagan was scored against the run of play as this was the period in the match when the black and white shirts had the upper hand. Debasis Roy and Nirmal Chatterjee were looking particularly dangerous at this time and the goal that was scored against them in no way deterred their enthusiasm.

Twenty nine minutes into the first

half Nirmal outran the Bagan right back Krishnendu Roy after which he lobbed the ball into the Bagan goalmouth. Just a word about Krishnendu. In the season this year he has, undoubtedly, proved himself to be the utility man for his team. He has played as a forward, as a linkman and in the later stages of the season in the deep defence. Sankar Banerjee, the Bagan coach, must really consider himself lucky to have such a useful player in his team. Now back to Nirmal's lob into the Bagan goalmouth. The normally reliable Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Shivaji Banerjee missed the flight of the ball and Jamshed always so brilliant in the air, headed. The ball was entering the Bagan net and Satyajit Ghosh only helped it in with his knee. So for the record books it goes down as a self goal. Shivaji Banerjee said after the match that his foot got stuck and that is why he missed the flight of the ball. "Otherwise," he said, "it would never have been a goal."

I have always maintained that Shyam Thapa is one of the most dangerous players when inside the six-yard box. Amitava Mukherjee picked up a pass from Panji after which he outwitted a Sporting defender. Shyam by this time had positioned himself well and an Amitava pass via Krishnendu Roy found him. Thapa had used the years of his experience and it was a perfect example of timing and positioning. The goal gave Mohun Bagan their sixth triumph in a row in the IFA Shield. Shyam Thapa was chaired. Deservedly so. His dream was fulfilled.



# Is there life after football?

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAI investigates

**T**ODAY their best companions are their memories—the memories of those golden days when life was football football life. The moments of joy, the pangs of failure, the rivalry, the togetherness, the affection of the fans and patrons. They all flash upon their minds from time to time when old comrades, the old familiar faces of bygone days, suddenly surface from among the crowd.

They are the veterans—the old war heroes of Calcutta football who at one time formed the cream of the country's soccer talent. They trod the turf when India was by no means a negligible factor in Asian circles.

In fact, those were the days which can rightly be described as the age of promise in the history of Indian football—the mid Sixties and the Seventies. The standard of football was quite high without doubt higher than that of today though training and coaching facilities could not be compared with what is available now.

In those days there were no financial prospects, no scope for building one's career on the game. It was a world fraught with uncertainty where only those who were madly in love with the game could dare to indulge in the pursuit of something which they considered most valuable.

No obstacle was stiff enough to stop them, no hardship hard enough to deter them from their toil. And their efforts did not go unrewarded. Successes in the international arena from 1951 till the mid Sixties will ever tell that story. Indian football rose to unprecedented heights, thanks to a number of talented footballers who appeared on the scene almost simultaneously to add a memorable chapter in the history of the game in this country.

But where are they now, after having retired from competitive football? What is their life like today? What sort of connection do they have with the game at present? What returns did they get for their dedicated service to the game?

These are the questions that prompted this writer to meet a few soccer veterans of the past to find out their lifestyle after retirement

from the foreground of active football.

For some, the withdrawal has been total. In such cases, most of their time is now devoted to things an ordinary man is supposed to be busy with. Late rising, a hurried browse through the morning newspaper with slightly more attention to the sports pages, elbowing one's way through the crowded streets of the city to office, back home in the evening. In between may come an hour devoted to the running commentary of the League matches. This apart, soccer plays little or no part in their lives.

For others, however, football has not yet become as remote from life as their more forgetful contemporaries. It still occupies an important place in their minds, in their awareness. It is still very much a part of their existence. The happenings on the greens, the drama, the disputes, the controversies still find a responsive chord in them. For them it is a case of coming off the field to sit on the sidelines. They are not bidding good-bye to the world they once belonged so closely to.

Many of them are still directly involved in the affairs of the maidan.

Generally, they are still associated with the clubs they served in their youth. Sometimes they help these clubs by giving free coaching to junior, inexperienced players. In times of crisis, they provide their wise counsel to the club authorities. Instances are not rare when these veterans have saved their favourite organisations from many a critical situation.

But the strangest—and most disquieting fact—is that most of these veterans are hardly shown any respect by the present generation of those who control the game in the city. Ungratefulness is the hallmark of their class and so it is small wonder that they seek these veterans' help in the proverbial hour of crisis, only to forget about them immediately after.

A former footballer, a celebrity in his heyday, begging club officials for a ticket to watch a big match is not an unfamiliar sight. "Today, power is concentrated in the hands of the moneyed people and the opportunists," said a well-known footballer of the Sixties, who pleaded anonymity lest his comments result in the curtailment of whatever benefits he gets these days. He added "like cricket, football too has now become a profitable proposition. Some people want to make money out of it and some seek self-publicity through their association with this popular game. Frankly speaking, soccer is only of secondary importance to them. They know nothing about it, nor do they try to."

"The only thing they are after is money and, of course, fame. Whenever you find them showing a keen interest in the game and the players, you know for sure that they are trying to hoodwink you to conceal their real motives. They are the enemies of the game in disguise. It is largely because of them that we are gradually losing our interest in the well-being of football in this State. The juggernauts must be removed first."

But should not their misdeeds be brought to light by those who know of the secret goings-on? I put this question to the same footballer. He shrugged, saying "who is going to



Prasanta Sinha

listen to us today? The world of football knows only one tense—the present. Once you are out of the running, nobody will pay any attention to you. If one says anything against anybody, people will say you only grumble. Who bothers about us? This is the tragedy of us retired players. Neither can we protest, nor can we tolerate. We only suffer.”

There is little doubt about the fact that many of our former greats have opted to stay away from football mainly because of the heinous atmosphere that prevails in almost all soccer centres of the country. We could have utilised their expertise to good advantage. Their vast experience would have helped us overcome a number of problems, especially with regard to coaching and grooming talented young players at an early age.

It is ironical that in a country with an abundance of talented footballers who have proved their prowess at home and abroad, one of the prime drawbacks at present is a lack of efficient coaches and sincere administrators. The root cause of this is the unwillingness among our veterans to get involved in the complicated situation that grips the game now.

In their days, the entire atmosphere in game was totally free from what can be described as extra football problems. These are the

problems that have nothing to do directly with the game, but instead are created by people who hover around the corridors of power in pursuit of their own interest. Said Prasanta Sinha, a national player of great repute who played for this country in several international tournaments including an Asian Games. “In our time the general environment was totally free from tension. Of course, there was an atmosphere of rivalry and competition among the players, but that is nothing unnatural. In fact, it is a healthy sign and required for one to improve one’s game.”

Moreover, the men who were at the helm of things were absolutely dedicated to the cause of the game. They themselves were players of great repute and their sole purpose in life was to work for the betterment of the game. They looked upon the players as their own children and whoever could show promise was given all possible help to go up the ladder.

“Take my case. But for Baghda (Bagha Shome) I could never have fulfilled my dream of being a good footballer. I was only a para (local) player and used to play on the streets with bare feet. From there I was brought straight to the first division. No controversy arose. No body grumbled. Thank God, I vindicated my mentor’s faith in me.”

“But now,” continued Prasanta Sinha, “the atmosphere is different. Very different. It is much more tense and is ridden with fierce undercurrents of rivalry.”

“This is caused by various factors like people adopting unfair means in order to get their candidates selected and so on. In my time, if a player was not in the team we could tell him so straightaway. Relationships between players were so easy and cordial, free from all sorts of unwanted intervention. But today this is not possible. I can’t spell out all the reasons. Many people are responsible for it. But the fact is that these things have led us to keep aloof from football. After retirement I received many coaching offers, but I preferred to lead a peaceful life.”

“These days my contact with the game has become negligible. As a matter of fact it is wearing thinner and thinner day by day. Sometimes I go to the maidan, visit the old clubs, come in contact with many known faces. But I try and remain away from it all. It’s all part of my memory now—a once-upon-a-time kind of thing.”

“But I’ve no regrets for having severed all connections with the game after my retirement. On the contrary, I realise that my decision was absolutely correct, especially when I consider what the situation is like today. At least I can always say

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one thing—football has never been a source of bitterness in my life. It has been enjoyment all the way. Some people, mostly my close friends, often tell me that had I maintained my connections with soccer, I could have earned a lot in various capacities. 'Don't you see how much some of your contemporaries are earning still?' they ask me. Some even lament that we were players of the Fifties and Sixties and not of the Eighties, had we been we could have earned much more than we did in our times. True, but I've never been so profit-minded in my attitude towards the game. Nor could any of us afford to be in our time.

"You would not believe me if I tell you how much we used to get from the clubs. Compared to today's standards it was nothing. The system of providing employment to players was also not in vogue at that time. So it was our sheer love for the game that made us take it so seriously."

"I secured a job for myself even before joining East Bengal club all on my own. It had nothing to do with my association with football. Thus we learnt never to expect anything from the game except success. This I have got and naturally, I feel no pang of regret today when I see footballers making easy money from the game regardless of the standards of their performance."

Prasanta Sinha retired from first division football in 1972 when he was with East Bengal. The question that arises in one's mind is whether the club, one of the top-ranking sides, provided any financial benefits to him at that time. The answer is no.

"Here nobody bothers to take any interest in the future of an outgoing player. The present is all that matters in this environment. As long as one can give one's club service, no problem. After that, the chapter is closed. This system is in vogue even now. I think serious thought should be given in this direction. Something should be done about it."

"Take the case of Pintu (Samaresh) Chowdhury or that of Tarun Bose. Everybody knows how great they were in their day. But when they retired, they just slipped silently into oblivion. Nobody thought of the great service they had rendered to the game and to the clubs. No extra financial benefit was provided to them. Such a fate befalls most of our footballers these days," lamented Prasanta Sinha, whose only concrete link with soccer now is that he is one of the selectors of the Bengal junior team.

Mr Sinha is as sincere in this, his present responsibility, as he was as a player in his younger days. The glimpses of days gone by return to his life when the veterans get together on certain occasions, sometimes to attend picnics or to play friendly exhibition matches or some times just for the sake of a few hours of refreshing *adda*. Says he, "We



Swamy Nayar

always look forward to such get-togethers. Those are the happiest moments in my life now. The light of the other days illuminates everybody's mind. The achievements are remembered, the failures reviewed, old jokes are cracked and old nicknames recalled."

But not all veterans have severed their relations with the game. Many have chosen to continue their service to soccer either by coaching promising youngsters or holding responsible positions in the different administrative bodies that rule the game.

In the former case, it is perhaps the best way for a footballer to pass his retired life, sharing his expertise with those who really need to learn the finer points of the game. They also make up for the latter's lack of experience with advanced theoretical aspects of soccer. It is something only the old timers, who undoubtedly raised the standard of Indian football, can provide to the present aspirants.

Some do so in a big way as coaches of the junior clubs of Calcutta. Abdus Sattar, the 1952 Olympian, is one of them. After his retirement from competitive football he has devoted his life entirely to coaching and grooming promising junior players who generally make their debut in first division football as members of the small clubs. He has generally been connected with Howrah Union as their coach after calling it a day from Mohun Bagan.

But what did the authorities of the big clubs do for him when he quit the game? Did they have any plans to grant him financial benefits for his retired life? "No. Never. We could not think of any such thing then," said Sattar.

"Of course, it is not that players never got benefits from their clubs after they retired. There were in-

deed certain instances of reputed players getting special grants from their authorities after their exit from the scene. For instance, Appa Rao and Venkatesh, as far as I know, were given a handsome amount of money when they retired. The man who made that possible was Jyotish Guha. But these were a few exceptional cases. On the other hand, most footballers were doomed to a life of tremendous hardship when their playing days were over.

"Take the case of Dhanraj or even of Swami Navar," continued Sattar. "Can anybody ever overlook the services they rendered to their clubs and to Indian football? What are they doing today? Navar, that great footballer whose record of the highest scorer in the league still stands unbroken, has virtually no source of income. Your present top scorers cannot raise their tally beyond 13 or 14 even when playing 70-minute matches. In our time, the duration of play was only 50 minutes, yet he scored as many as 36 goals. Can you imagine that? And after all this, he is leading his life in dire poverty. Even then, he has not stopped serving the game. He trains a number of young boys with great care."

"Now, think of Dhanraj, he was my colleague but retired recently. I don't know what he is going to do now with his three teenaged children. He had a few service breaks and I don't think he is going to get a handsome amount of money from his employers. I could have been in an even worse position had I not been lucky enough to get a job here in Bird & Co., after dissociating myself from Customs."

"The latter was a second division club then and my ambition was to play in the India team in the Olympics. But this was simply impossible if one got stuck in a second division team. So I sacrificed the job for greater achievements. It was a great risk, but my ambition was fulfilled when I got selected for the 1952 Olympics."

That, then, is the story of life after football. It is like being banished from the limelight to the dark corners backstage. Now the question is, surely some projects can be taken up by the patrons of the game in the country to ensure proper rehabilitation of these players. Remember the entertainment they provided. Remember the honours they brought the nation, despite all the handicaps in those early days when India was just emerging from the darkness of bondage.

To play football then was like gambling with one's career. They hazarded it all just for their love of the game. What about those who benefited from their toil? What about their countrymen who rejoiced over India's success and cursed the footballers for their failures? Do they not have a duty to light a candle for their dark future?

# HERE'S THE 1984 OLYMPICS

HAL STRAUSS

**O**PENING Ceremonies—July 28, 1984 Turah! Turah! The traditional March of Olympic Athletes is about to commence. Here they come now through the north gate of Los Angeles Coliseum.

Algeria Angola Argentina

Smiling proudly, dressed in the native garb of their homelands, bringing tidings of good cheer to their brothers and sisters in America. The crowd of 92,000 watches with blasé respect. Many spectators wear sun visors, shorts, mesh tops or no tops at all in the 88 degree heat. Many more wear royal-blue Dodger baseball caps, having taken a wrong turn off the Harbor Freeway and winding up here instead of Chavez Ravine.

"Hey beer! Getcha ice-cold beer here!"

Gabon Gambia Ghana Great Britain. The procession winds like a snake around the stadium, led by Sam the Official Olympic Mascot—a 7½ foot grinning eagle in top hat and bow tie, designed by Walt Disney Studios especially for the Olympic Games. Contrary to the dignified solemnity of previous Opening Ceremonies, Sam does a sprightly soft shoe à la Fred Astaire. So professional is the routine, in fact, that many in the vast Olympic audience speculate it really is Fred Astaire and worry that the old hooper may be having a hard time breathing inside the eagle suit.

But no matter, Fred is a trooper and gaiety is the keynote of the afternoon's festivities. Even the uncomfortable temperature and smog-index level (first stage, cancerous) do not dampen the spirits of the assembled throng.

Kuwait Laos Lebanon

Of course many athletes are not participating in the match. The entire upper Volta delegation is missing, for example, having taken a wrong turn off the Santa Monica Freeway. The delegation was last seen by a Highway Patrol car heading east on the San Bernardino Freeway toward Glendale.

And still the athletes march—arranging themselves now into the five circle Olympic pattern, symbolizing the spirit of cooperation

among the five continents linked by athletics.

"Hey, mascot's here! Mascots! Sam's here!" ("Who brought the dope?" "The dope? I don't got in man. I thought you brought it!")

Yemen Yugoslavia Zambia

Turah! Turah! Time for the lighting of the Olympic flame. ("That's good stuff, man. What is it?" "Some kinda Lebanese stuff, man." "Yeah Lebanon! Go-o-o-o Lebanon!")

Susan Anton, who won a furious battle with Mariel Hemingway and James Figg for the right to carry the Olympic torch, charges into the Coliseum. It has been widely rumored that a high-powered publicity campaign in variety put Susan over the top in the balloting.

("Mmmm, look it that sweet honey, man. She can hurdle over me anytime.")

Susan's Malibu-tanned legs glide gracefully over the new Coliseum track—a spanking-new \$62 million oval donated by ARCO, the Official Olympic Oil and Gas. The crowd roars with approval as she runs up a 100 foot, papier-mache Mt Olympus provided by Twentieth Century-Fox, the Official Olympic Moviemaker, and hands the torch to Alan Hamel and Suzanne Somers, the Official Olympic God and Goddess. The regal couple wear matching lavender suede robes, pink leotards and gold crowns donated by Gucci of Beverly Hills, the Official Olympic Crown maker.

As Alan holds the Olympic torch, Olivia Newton John begins her special rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. "Oh say can you see/That we're getting physical/Phys-ica-aal." ("Hey ding those sounds, man. Do Pacman Fever! Go-o-o Olivia!")

**FIRST Day of Competition—**29 July, 1984. The L.A. freeways, usually congested affairs at 4p.m. on a weekday afternoon, were thrown into absolute pandemonium today as thousands of Olympic spectators were stranded in a traffic jam near the Coliseum. Police reports indicate that the tie up was apparently caused by an overheated Buick, the Official Olympic Automobile.

On a higher note, Antti Kalliomäki of Finland set a world pole vault record of 19'2" during the first day's events. Unfortunately, only 205 people actually witnessed the feat because of low layer that completely covered the Coliseum infield.

As expected, television coverage of today's competition—led by Howard Cosell, Jim McKay, Keith Jackson and the rest of ABC's sportscasting team—was superb. In eight hours of coverage (three hours in prime time), the network managed to insert 118 plugs and 26 commercials advertising four new shows focusing on Olympic themes—headed by Marathon Midget Man, starring Gary Coleman. In addition the network plans to broadcast a special two-hour segment of Love Boat this week with guest appearances by Bruce Jenner, Mark Spitz, Donna DeVerona and Buster Orabbe.

**THOUGH** sponsors have been jumping on the LAOOC bandwagon, the campaign has not gone smoothly in every case. Take the General Motors/Buick deal. After searching fruitlessly for an American auto sponsor for almost a year, Ueberroth turned the matter over to an Albuquerque ad agency with connections in Detroit. Datsun, VW, Mercedes and BMW were practically killing each other for a piece of the Olympic pie, but the committee very logically wanted a U.S. sponsor. After all, how would it look if the first Olympics to be held in America in 52 years—and in L.A., Car Capital of the Universe, of all places—could not attract an American car sponsor?

Financially troubled GM finally succumbed in August 1981 to the tune of \$4 million, plus 500 Buicks for the use of LAOOC and USOC officials during the Games. Sure, the Germans and Japanese had offered \$10 million, but sometimes you must pay a price for national pride.

Even so, considering that GM may go the way of the Dodo bird any day now, the deal must be viewed as one of the great coups in corporate history. Yes, the 50,000 laid-off GM autoworkers must have been overjoyed to hear that their "poor" com-

pany just spent \$ four million for the right to use Sam the Olympic Eagle in its advertising. In GM upper management, however, you may rest assured that all is Bliss City. Take six-to-one odds that the new Buick "Olympian" (sleek, athletic, record-setting, etc.) will be in your friendly neighbourhood GM showroom by July '84?

While Olympic officials are tooling around in their Buicks, the 250,000 predicted visitors to the Games will be lucky to tool at all. L.A.'s traffic problems are well known, but July-August '84 may become the stuff of legend.

"Residents of southern California and visitors from around the world will face very serious, possibly crippling, traffic congestion throughout the Games," warns Cal Trans official David Roper.

Not to worry, says Ueberroth. It will be possible "to get all athletes from the Olympic Villages to stadia within 90 minutes."

Great. And you thought you had commuting problems.

All sorts of solutions to the traffic problem have been proposed. Putting out concerts to keep spectators at the sites past the peak traffic hours—even implementing an abbreviated daily work schedule, the idea being to clear the streets of rush hour traffic before the major events begin at 4 p.m.

One of the brightest solutions comes from Cal Trans itself, which suggests, "Hey, why not reschedule the times of the competitions, not the entire rest of the city, for God's sake!"

Makes sense, huh? Tell ABC, which paid \$225 million to televise the major events from 4 to 7 p.m. (California time—prime time back East).

**THIRD Day of Competition—1 August 1984.** As temperatures soared into the mid 90s and the smog index registered second stage lethal, three English Olympic horses dropped dead today at Santa Anita Race Track, site of the equestrian events.

At Lake Casitas in Ventura County, the rowing competition was postponed for the second day in a row when none of the Olympic rowers showed up for the event. Apparently none of them knew where Lake Casitas—70 miles from the UCLA Olympic Village—was located.

In an unrelated incident, the entire Ethiopian team has left L.A. and gone home. "We abhor the flagrant immorality," head coach Joseph X. Mojumbo told Howard Cosell. Mojumbo was not referring to athletic behaviour on the field but to athletic behaviour on the sidelines, where a large contingent of Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders have been trying to attract the attention of ABC and Twentieth Century-Fox executives.

Taking a cue from Ethiopia, the Pakistani team, whose religion forbids the consumption of alcoholic

## **Olga Schmidt, a relative unknown from East Germany, won the women's marathon. Miss Schmidt attributed her victory to wearing a portable lightweight oxygen tent**

beverages, also withdrew from the Games, protesting the liquor sponsorship of Anheuser-Busch. Replied an A.B. Vice President: "Pakistan, for all you do, this Bud's for you!"

**I**N order to recoup its investment in the L.A. Olympics, ABC plans to sell \$430 million of commercial air time, 3,774 half-minute commercials at an average price of \$110,000 each over 210 hours of programming. The price for a 30-second prime-time commercial: \$215,000.

To give you an idea of how this stacks up against other Biggies, the 1981 Super Bowl currently holds the record for a 30-second spot (\$275,000), followed closely by the 1980 "Who Shot J.R.?" episode of Dallas (\$250,000).

What a bargain.

As of March 1982, the network has already sold \$200 million worth of advertising to such companies as Coca-Cola (\$34.2 million), McDonald's (\$30 million) and Anheuser-Busch (\$20 million).

The A-B sponsorship, by the way, marks the first time an alcoholic beverage will be designated an "official product" of any sporting event. The company needed a special waiver from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to get it.

The thriving Japanese will be represented. Canon has the official camera, Fuji outbid Kodak for film sponsor, Brother can boast the Official Olympic Typewriter, and Datsun has purchased almost twice as much commercial air time as GM—\$17.5 million to \$9 million—even without an "official" designation.

Kodak was a sponsor of the 1976

**Obtaining tickets will not be easy and ticket scalping—always a problem at major sporting events—will probably be a big problem in '84 unless there is a worldwide depression**

Games and the 1980 Winter Olympics, but the company did not match Fuji's bid for the '84 Games. It is not certain whether Kodak's nonparticipation can be attributed to poor return on the sponsorship dollar in the past, the recessionary outlook of the future or just overpowering Japanese bucks. In any case, the LAOOC is not worried about the economy affecting future sale of sponsorships.

"We already have 20 sponsors out of our projected goal of 30," says LAOOC Vice President of Administration Dan Greenwood. "And we have four more waiting in the wings. So the sponsorship money is virtually assured. Even before the economic downturn, the (sponsoring) corporations saw the sponsorships less as a short-term marketing decision than a 2½-year overall involvement."

Perhaps Kodak is annoyed with the IOC rule banning advertising signs from Olympic sites during the events, after all, its product is rather visual. On the other hand, Levi Strauss, the official Olympic outfitter, is ecstatic about an LAOOC directive allowing the jeansmaker's designers to work closely with the designers of the site service tents "so as to be sure that the colour combinations will be compatible."

**SIXTH Day of Competition—August 4, 1984.** The severe case of constipation that has plagued many of the athletes since the start of the Games abated today after the Official Olympic Laxative shipped a trackload of its product to the Olympic Villages. (Team Physicians have speculated that the medical problem may have been caused by the 500,000 free hamburgers donated to the athletes and Press by McDonald's, the Official Olympic Fast-Food. The Press, of course, eat McDonald's every day and so were not affected.)

Though medical problems have subsided, the weather has not improved. The heat wave continues, bringing temperatures of 96 degrees and a smog index of third stage suffocation.

Today also, executives of several Olympic sponsors were served summonses for breaking the no-sign advertising rule. Myron Schlupph, spokesman for group, plans to fight the matter in court. "The committee banned signs," said Schlupph, "but they didn't ban anything else."

The summonses were issued after Minute Maid air-dropped 80,000 cartons of free orange juice into L.A. Coliseum during the short put event. A few hours earlier, a United Airlines jet was seen skywriting the words "Fly the friendly Skies" over the same facility, nearly causing a head-on collision with the Goodyear Blimp.

The executives refused to bow to



LAOOC pressure however, calling the summonses "a blatant attack on American democratic principles" in spite of the "Japanese imperialists."

Good luck if you're planning a trip to the Games in 1984. Obtaining tickets (unless you're an Anheuser-Busch or McDonald's employee) will not be easy, and ticket scalping—always a problem at major sporting events—will probably be a big problem in '84 (unless there's a world-wide depression, giving scalpers much reduced leverage). But the LAOOC is not taking any chances. The committee plans to institute a "package deal" linking tickets with transportation and hotel accommodations designed to keep scalping to a minimum. What knucklehead (the LAOOC's thinking goes) is going to shell out two or three grand to fly from Chicago, New York, Paris, Napoli or wherever, and another six C-note to stay in a pushy hotel and then not go to the Games? The answer, our suppose, is the knucklehead who has to scalp his Olympic tickets to pay for his trip.

**TENTH Day of Competition—August 8, 1984.** The confusion and unrest that has characterized this year's Games erupted into full-scale violence today in the Pasadena Rose Bowl site of the soccer competition. During a final match between Italy and Brazil, Sam the Olympic Eagle was attacked by the San Diego Charger Chicken. Sam was treated for feather and wing lacerations at the Pasadena General Hospital. Tempers also flared at two other sites, the Coliseum and the Forum, where members of the surrounding Black and Latino communities marched against LAOOC hiring policies. Of the 14,000 temporary jobs filled for the Games, 12,685 went to white college students on vacation from UCLA, USC, Pepperdine and other L.A. area schools. The racial turmoil was further exacerbated by the presence of the 12th Infantry Division of the U.S. Marines, which has been here to all work as part of the LAOOC's security precautions.

Meanwhile, at the Olympic Men's Marathon, 128 of the world's best long distance runners embarked on the 26.2 mile journey to gold medal glory. Of the 128 runners, 17 were hospitalized for heat prostration, 36 were treated for ozone poisoning and 53 suffered stomach disorders, apparently resulting from a "carb-loading" party given by the maker of the 1984 Olympic Pizza.

One nonathlete, Armand Guutoldsen of Norway, who has never run a snow until today, got off to a bad start and never made it out of the Coliseum. "I lost the pack and could not find the exit," said Guutoldsen, who ran 43 laps around the Coliseum track before realising his mistake. The winner of the race, Alberto Salazar of Eugene, Oregon,

**Contrary to the dignified solemnity of previous Opening Ceremonies, Sam the Eagle does a sprightly soft-shoe a la Fred Astaire. So professional is the routine that many speculate it really is Fred and worry that the old hooper may be having a hard time**

set a record for the worst time in recent Olympic Marathon history 2:27. But he was not disappointed.

The first Olympic women's marathon also ended in ambiguity when Olga Schmidt, a relative unknown from East Germany, won the race with a time of 2:28:30. Miss Schmidt attributed her victory to wearing a portable lightweight oxygen tent designed especially for her by a crack team of East German scientists.

**TWELTH Day of Competition—August 10, 1984.** As the temperature rose to 103 degrees and the song index reached fourth-stage genocidal, Black and Latino protestors rioted at the Sports Arena today, overwhelming the 12th Infantry Division of the U.S. Marines and causing damage estimated at \$15 million.

Things were no better traffic-wise, as Sam the Olympic Eagle escaped from the Coliseum and ran amok on the Santa Ana Freeway, causing a seven-car collision and tying up traffic for almost three hours. The real identity of Sam the Eagle was revealed to be Klaus von Klinger, a former mental patient from Napa, California.

Though no political terrorism has emerged during this 23rd Olympiad as feared, there have been sporadic cases of white collar terrorism. At Disneyland executives of Sony, Fuji, Mitsubishi, Cannon, Datsun and Toyota were held hostage for six hours on Space Mountain today by a

**The thriving Japanese will be represented. Canon has the official camera, Fuji outbid Kodak for film sponsor, Brother can boast the official typewriter**

band of disgruntled General Motors vice-presidents. Bloodshed was averted at the last moment, however, when President Reagan interceded, offering total amnesty to any kidnaper earning over \$50,000 per year.

**CLOSING Ceremonies—August 12, 1984.** Turah! Turah! The traditional March of Olympic Athletes is about to begin. Here they come now through the north gate of the Coliseum. The procession coils around the stadium and onto the infield grass to form. But wait, hold on a minute. Instead of forming the traditional five-circle pattern, as rehearsed, the athletes march into a different formation! ("Hey man, whar's going on? Where's the five circles, man? Where's Olivia?")

As Olympic Committee officials turn to each other in flustered consternation, the athletes form what appears to be, yes, it's a fist, a human fist. "Hay man, where's Suzanne? Where's Alan? We came to see Celebs!" And out of the fist comes a straight line, looking more and more like yes, a finger—the traditional, universal, middle finger!

Corporate executives begin to scream and retch in horror. For the first time in his illustrious career, Howard Cosell is at a loss for words. Confusion runs rampant in the ABC control room. "Cut!" "No! We've spent too much money!" "Cut! We can't let the world see this!" "Are you kidding? What are we going to put on instead—Eight Is Enough?" "Who's behind this outrage? Get someone to talk to Howard—quick!" Michel Belloq, a wrestler from Belgium, is hurried up to the ABC commentator's booth.

"I now have with me," Howard begins in his familiar drone, "one of the great wrestlers of this or any time, Michel Belloq. As spokesman for the athletes, Michel, what is your interpretation of the events transpiring right now, in the Coliseum, in Los Angeles, California?"

"You mean the finger—" asks Belloq, who fortunately speaks English. "That's correct, Michel. The finger."

"Whar do you think it means?" says Michel. "It means give the Olympics back to the Olympians."

"Is that all?"

"Isn't that enough? What else is there?"

Down in the stadium, the president of Twentieth Century-Fox exults over this latest development. "We'll turn the whole thing into the biggest disaster-epic ever made! Keep the cameras rolling!" Standing by his side, Klaus von Klinger (alias Sam the Olympic Eagle) sighs dejectedly. He has just sold his life story to Fox for \$2 million and his already thinking about getting a new agent. After all, shouldn't Sam the Olympic Eagle get a percentage of the gross?



# COUNT DOWN 6

## *Of mosquitoes and sex tests*

**T**HE sensational story of a champion girl athlete who failed to pass a sex test in the Asian Junior Meet in Seoul in August has helped reveal a shortcoming of the Asian Games organisation, although one had heard of elaborate arrangements having been made on the medical front. The story revealed during the Trial Games bears repetition.

The girl, whose sex was questioned at Seoul surprisingly not only managed to return home with a medal but, in spite of the medical report brought back by Milkha Singh, our manager there, actually participated in the coaching camp at Patiala and also broke a very old record at the Trial Games.

The Amateur Athletic Federation of India has now decided to subject our female athletes to sex tests, but already a lot of damage has been done to the image of our sports administration. One had thought that the case of Anasuya Bai at Bangkok in 1978 should have served as a lesson.

The ninth Asian Games is almost here and questions are being asked about another famous woman athlete. The sex test is a simple one, but where were our doctors during the Trial Games? Or were the organisers shy of carrying out such delicate tasks?

It is time we shed our inhibitions. The truth has to be faced, however delicate it may be. Moreover, rules are rules and let us not again be caught violating them. As hosts of the Asian Games we have a special responsibility and image to preserve.

But then in such matters tests should be carried out as soon as doubts are first raised about the

sex of a female athlete so that time, effort and money are not wasted on the coaching of the person concerned.

This also reminds us about the dope tests that have come to occupy such an important place in the organisation of international sports meets. One fervently hopes our arrangements will not be found wanting when the time comes.

One remembers how careful the doctors of Sriram Singh were when they helped prepare him for the Bangkok Asian Games 800 metres. They were careful enough not to allow him to take any of the banned drugs while he battled heroically against his asthma.

On the general level, one was relieved to note that the doctors gave a good account of themselves at the Asian Games Village during the Trial Games, which, unfortunately, coincided with the dengue epidemic that struck thousands in the capital.

The building to house the mini-hospital at the village was not ready in time so one was set up in one of the brand new houses. The doctors and nurses, working round the clock, treated over a thousand patients, many of them victims of the mysterious fever. There were also some cases of malaria.

The appropriate lessons have been drawn from the experience, and before the actual event is held the village authorities, under Air Vice-Marshal Kapur, will, with the willing co-operation of the civic officials of

the area launch a determined drive against mosquitoes.

In fact, fogging operations have already been intensified in south Delhi, particularly in areas around the village. They are welcome even if you find yourself awakened at an unearthly hour by the commotion. On behalf of all those affected by the fever and others lucky enough to be spared by the winged menace, let's wish the health brigade all luck.

If only a mosquito had bitten Bula Choudhury earlier, the swimming sensation from West Bengal would have remained hidden from the full view of the nation. By the time the little girl was taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences with high temperature, she had already become a not-to-be-forgotten celebrity.

Among others affected by health problems were such famous athletes as Shivnath Singh and Gopal Sami. Sami, the promising teen-aged runner from Punjab, fell out of the women's 3,000 metres and had to be removed on a stretcher. One also suspected her having a touch of the fever.

But champion athletes are rare people. Their heroism, which sometimes makes them ignore doctor's orders, is what sets them apart from ordinary mortals. May then the flourishing Indian sport needs them in increasing numbers.



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## Regional round-up

### DELHI

#### No football facelift yet

INDIAN football does not appear to be in its best shape with just over a month to go for the Asian Games. The probabilities have not had any competitive games inside the country but they cannot complain of inadequate international exposure. Starting with the Nehru Gold Cup in Calcutta, they had frequent trips abroad, rounding off with that inglorious performance in the Merdeka tournament.

For reasons best known to them, the All India Football Federation chose to keep the probabilities off the trial Games. And when they came for the final workout at the capital, none of the Asian venues were made available to them for practice. Some work on the other was on at the three stadiums—Chhatrasal, Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru.

After a couple of days of running round for a suitable ground to practise, the Indian probabilities played, for the first time, a match against the Iraqi junior team which was on its way to Kathmandu to play in the Asian Youth Championship. For the visiting youth side it was a satisfying one-one draw, but for our national team, dubbed as East Zone Selection, it was not a game worth remembering. The 15,000 odd who turned up to see the match, left the Ambedkar Stadium with no illusions about India's prospects in next month's Games.

There was no plan involved in the forwards' movement though Bidesh and Shabbir did show their individual brilliance on a few occasions. Thapa looked uncomfortable on the right flank. The medios, Prasun, Prasanta and Parminder, did not make things any better up front. The Iraqis, on the other hand, did have a forward in Wamid Yakub who could dictate the course of the game. Though he himself missed two chances he paved the way for the Iraqi goal which came first. India's reply was Prasanta's goal. After Shabbir's header to a Bidesh floater struck the post, the luckman had to just tap the ball in.

In the first match, the hastily prepared Indian juniors were no match for the well drilled Iraqis who were favourites at Kathmandu. Yakub netted two of the three goals his side had scored, the other coming through Khalil Ibrahim. The Indian lads could not score but had their moments of supremacy.

At the end of the two matches, the Yugoslav coach of the Iraqi side must have been pleased to see his boys perform, but the same cannot be said of the Indian soccer think tank.

#### Manmeet corners limelight

HOWEVER, for another Asian probable in another game, things have started improving. The enigmatic Manmeet Singh, one of our bright boys of table tennis, seemed to have established a mastery over senior international Manjit Dua. The two met four times on the local circuit and it was Manmeet all the way. Within a month Manmeet beat Dua three times, the latest coming in the Bal Bhairavi championships. Dua was also not at his fighting best for this match. He had a minor back problem.

Fit or not, Dua can no longer match his younger opponent at his own game. For a player who has survived in the top echelons for over a decade, in this fast changing game, with only one potent stroke—a highly dependable forehand—Dua finds it difficult these days to keep pace with Manmeet who now can finish on the backhand too. Dua could gain only one game and that, too, when Manmeet chose to relax after taking the first two games. Manmeet eventually won 21-19, 21-17, 14-21, 21-16.

In fact, Manmeet found his semi-final against Ravi Vashist a very difficult match to win. He was down two games before he climbed up to take the next three for his 20-22, 18-21, 21-19, 21-9, 21-14 triumph. Ravi, a tenacious fighter, has been in the shadow of the two top players for quite some time. Dua dropped a game to the spectacular but none too consistent, Sunil Vaswani in the other semi-final. The India number seven ran very close in all the four games but surrendered at the crucial moments. The 22-24, 22-20, 24-22, 21-19 scoreline tells its own story.

The high spot of the tournament, however, was the emergence of a new rival to Satbir Singh and Rajan Vajish in the junior section. Satbir, a bronze medalist at Ankara recently, fell to this fast improving Ravi Sankaran in the final. Ravi has a good chop to wait for his chance to open up and has a good, flat forehand to finish. Satbir, who had lost to Ravi in four games, beat Vajish in the semi-final. Sanjay Bhargava was Ravi's semi-final victim.

With Indu and Meena Bora not there, the women's singles final was between Tina Sudan, the favourite, and Chanchal Malik. The latter won,

going the full distance. Deepshikha Soni is the girls' champion, beating Anuradha Dhawan.

A CORRESPONDENT

### BOMBAY

#### T.T. at the Khar Gymkhana

AFTER dropping the first two games, Kamlesh Mehta, the top seed reeled off the next three games to win the men's singles finals of the Khar Gymkhana Open table tennis tournament. Mehta beat S. Ramaswamy 14-21, 18-21, 21-18, 21-18, 21-14.

Agility and anticipation enabled Ramaswamy to race off to a two nil lead. To add to Mehta's problems the overhead bulbs were throwing the light directly into his eyes when he opted for the high toss serve. But not one to be deterred, Mehta, who won the recent Trial Games at Delhi, took all this in his stride and fought his way to the top.

In the semi-finals, Mehta carried too many guns for S. Kulkarni and triumphed in straight games. The other semi-final between Ramaswamy and Vilas Menon was a keen affair. Ramaswamy banked on speed and stamina to see him through. The first two games were both decided on extra points. And the fact that he lost both these games seemed to have demoralised Menon. Ramaswamy finally won in straight games.

Kashmira Patel won the women's event, defeating Nandini Kulkarni in the finals. The scores were 20-22, 21-19, 18-21, 23-21, 22-20.

#### Sandeep on the sidelines

TEST cricketer Sandeep Patil will not assist defending champions West Zone in the Duleep Trophy this year. Patil, who also missed the one-day international against Sri Lanka at Bangalore, has a hairline fracture on his right shoulder. Medical opinion seems to suggest that the Bombay cricketer will require three weeks' rest in which case Sandeep will not only miss the Duleep Trophy—which is being conducted entirely in Bombay due to lack of time—but also the Irani Trophy tie which is scheduled to commence on October 21 in Delhi.

During the recent England tour, Patil suffered pain in his right shoulder.

der and on consultation with doctors was told that it was muscular pain only. But the pain surfaced once again in the Madras Test, where Patil got a century, against Sri Lanka. An X-ray showed a hairline fracture in his right shoulder and Patil was advised rest.

Sandeep is keen to be fit for the Irani Trophy as the Indian team is to be selected on the performances of the players in the Duleep Trophy and Irani Trophy. And with Patil out of action in the Duleep Trophy, the Irani tie assumes a lot of importance for Sandeep.

HARESH MUNWANI

## CALCUTTA

### Winter racing holds promise

THE Calcutta racing season is to get underway sometime in the last week of October. For the past few seasons interest at this racing centre has been on the decline and there is a lot of hope that this will be rectified in the forthcoming winter season.

There was an announcement in some leading dailies of the city that M A M Ramaswamy is sending a string of 41 horses to the centre. This correspondent holds that this is not possible as the rules say that an outstation trainer has got to take the permission of the RCTC if he wishes to run his horses in this centre. However, MAM's trainer Robert Foley has not yet written to the RCTC asking them for permission for a stable. As such it is expected that the horses will be under the care of trainer Haskell David with Foley taking over only a day or two before the races. It is for this reason that one strongly doubts that Ramaswamy will send many horses to the centre. The few horses that should be here in the winter are all three year olds—Birthday Girl, Great Future, Own Objective and Pioneer. These are expected to be entered only for the Classics as it is well known that the great MAM is aspiring to set up an unbeatable record as far as winning Classics goes.

That is not the only piece of good news. The wonder-horse Almanac who completed a Triple Crown with a win in the St Leger is also coming to Calcutta. This Common Land out of Clocked colt who has had a dream year of racing is expected to take a bash at the prestigious Calcutta Gold Cup after which it will take part in the Queen Elizabeth II Cup. This will really be a treat for all racing fans of the city. Almanac, if it does enter, should lift both these races. But one

never knows. Remember the brilliant Own Opinion being beaten by Sun Lion a rank outsider not so long ago.

The presence of the horses of MAM and J P Goenka will not be the only attraction this winter. N Crowther, Rae Guest and, of course, Sandy Barclay may well add the foreign touch in the saddle. Added to this will be the challenge of Robin Corner and the champion rider of the Calcutta Monsoon season Rodney Rodrigues. Incidentally, no photo finish bets will be accepted any more at this centre from the coming winter season. But one thing that can be assured is that this season's winter meeting is going to be a lot of fun.

DEREK O'BRIEN

### Footballers from the sky

ALL eyes were glued to the aglowing autumn sky of the city. An Air Force helicopter was slowly hovering westward. Suddenly three tiny spots appeared beside it and started growing larger and larger with every passing second. They were three members of the Indian Air Force para-troopers who were coming down on the East Bengal ground to play an exhibition match with the home team, arranged by the IAF authorities as a part of their golden jubilee celebrations. One by one nine para-troopers successfully landed on the field, some right inside the centre circle and thus treated about 20,000 cheering spectators to a memorable show of military valiance and mathematical precision.

After the para-dropping was over Air Marshal M S D Wollen, PVSM, AVSM, VM, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command was introduced to the para troopers. Later the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mr Jyoti Basu was also introduced to the members of both the IAF and East Bengal teams.

Though the match was of little importance, East Bengal seemed to take things seriously and went into the attack right from the beginning. They were without three of their key players, Kartick Sett, Mihir Bose and Amalraj. But their absence did not affect the team's game much as little resistance was offered by the IAF defenders. As a result, the East Bengal frontliners made some easy inroads into their rival territory and got the first goal in the 19th minute of the first half through Krishnagopal Choudhury.

Their second goal came in the very next minute. Arun Nath utilised a good through pass from Swapan Routh.

However, the IAF players were not entirely on the defensive in the first

half. They also made a few good moves and gave the East Bengal defenders some anxious moments.

In the second session, East Bengal put even greater pressure on their rivals and got three more goals, one of which was scored from a penalty kick, awarded to them when Krishnagopal was roughly tackled inside the box by an IAF defender. Balai took the kick.

In general, the IAF players put up a good display of stamina and teamwork, though they were miserably lacking in skill, without which it is difficult to match a top ranking side like East Bengal. Nevertheless, it must be said that their efforts were praiseworthy and it proved an enjoyable evening of soccer and entertainment, thanks to the efficient organisation of the IAF officials.

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL



**LONGEST SWIMMING RACE** Khagen Dutta of West Bengal Police Sports Club won the world's longest swimming race. Held on the Bhagirathi river. This 74 km race was won by Dutta for the fourth year in a row. He completed the distance in 10 hours and thirteen minutes.

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## Champions Cup may be played here

It has been learnt from reliable sources that there is every chance of the Champions Cup hockey tournament being hosted in the city. If this is the case hockey lovers of the city are surely in for a very special treat in 1984. The Indian Hockey Federation were earlier approached by the Bombay Hockey Association to host the tournament. However, the IHF asked for a guarantee money of Rs 20 lakhs from the Bombay Hockey Association. The latter were not willing to host the tourney because of the large outlay involved.

Gurbux Singh who has done a lot for the game in West Bengal then proposed that this was an opportune moment for hosting the Champions Cup in the city. If the Bengal Hockey Association can pay to the IHF the guarantee money then there is every chance of Calcutta playing host.

However, one has serious doubts whether the Bengal Hockey Association will be able to cough up such a large amount of money. The BHA are at present not in the best of positions. Only a few days ago the BHA issued a notice stating that they had shifted their office from Lenin Sarani to a second floor room in Draper Lane. For quite some time the BHA were on the streets and this is, probably, the first sign that they are slowly getting things in order. If this is the case, and along with the guidance of Gurbux Singh there is surely some chance—as little as it might be—for the 1984 Champions Cup to be played in Calcutta.

DEREK O BRIEN

## MADRAS

### State Bank champions

THE biggest event that held city interest was one being played at Vellore. This was the Champions Club football tournament. State Bank won the trophy beating Integral Coach Factory by two goals to one in the final.

The tournament is held annually for the top clubs in the State. State Bank staged a remarkable rally to win the tie. At half time they were down by a goal scored by Mohandoss in as early as the fifth minute. State Bank struck hard in the last ten minutes of the match. Dinakaran netted the equaliser and then three minutes later Md. Isaac scored the match winner to give a bakrid gift for himself and his team.

PARTASRANCHAND .



No Indian reservation, this. At Bangalore's recent vintage car rally, one of the participants added a touch of colour and reality when he entered his Harley Davidson Indian Chief and dressed the part as well.

## BANGALORE

### Bridge Olympiad

INDIA'S chances of winning the World Bridge Open Olympiad, which is being held at Biarritz in France in October are very bright according to Mr B Krishnan, vice-president of the Bridge Federation of India and captain of the Karnataka team as well as the official Indian team for the tournament.

A total of six teams are being sent from India, but it is the Karnataka team which is the official team by virtue of its wins at the National Championships last year (Gurudutt

Trophy) and the selection trials held this March at Nagpur.

Mr Krishnan, who has represented India in many international events said that the team hopes to finish at least in the "top three, if we have our share of luck". The team consists of six members and one manager. They are B Krishnan (captain), A S. Vishwanathan, K C Mishra, B.K. Satyan, Ningaiah, S K Iyengar and Niranjan Ubayankar as manager of the team.

The tournament will be played on a swiss cum-knock-out basis. There will be three major events—the mixed pairs Olympics—in which two ladies from Karnataka, Mrs Radha Ragunandan and Mrs Renu Rao will be playing with Mr Krishnan and Mr Iyengar respectively, the pairs event and the team event.

SHANTI MOHANRANGAM

## How the stumps grew up

Col Rait Kerr is one of the accepted authorities on Laws of cricket. Considered the ablest secretary the MCC has ever possessed, Sir Pelham Warner said, "You can stump him on the laws of cricket." Known for his research and compilation ability, he wrote in 1950 a book "The laws of cricket," which was described by Sir Norman Birkett, in the foreword to the book "as the most scholarly and authoritative treatise."

Sir Norman continued "Let nobody suppose for a moment that a history of the laws of cricket must necessarily be dull reading. The common Law of England is the heritage of the English-speaking world, and its history is one of the most absorbing interest."

But neither Rait Kerr nor any other historian has been able to throw definite information as to how the "stumps" came into being and who discovered it. It is said that the stumps are as old as the game itself. However, there is some kind of recorded evidence, which is as old as about 300 years.

Like this bat, the stumps have undergone many changes in number and dimensions at different periods as the game gained in popularity and importance.

According to some historians, the original object aimed at was a hole, as in golf, and that was considered a deter-



mining factor for the bowler's bowling under-arm along the ground.

At the dawn of the 18th century, the height of the stumps was one foot and width two feet. It is further said "Between the stumps a hole was cut in the ground, large enough to contain the ball and the butt-end of the bat. In running a notch (run), the striker was required to put his bat into this hole instead of the modern practice of touching over the popping crease. The wicketkeeper, in putting out the striker, when running, was obliged, when the ball was thrown in, to place it in this hole before the adversary could reach it with his bat. Many severe injuries of the hands were caused by this rule: the present mode of touching the popping crease was, therefore, substituted for it."

Towards the middle of the 18th century, the height of the two-stump wicket was 22 inches with a single bail 6 inches long. According to Frederick Gale, a historian, there used to be a wicket without any bail for some time. This was introduced to prevent doubts and was then called the "tell-tale."

The third stump was introduced in 1776 and in June 1777 Hambledon played All England in a match in which the wicket comprised three stumps. But one bail continued for more than 40 years. In 1818 another bail was introduced.

The dominance of the bat over the ball was said to be the result of the variation in height and width of the wicket. In 1798, it had been raised by two inches and widened by one inch, about 1818 to 1819 it had gone up to 26 inches and by 1823 its width had grown to eight inches at which it remained for over a 100 years.

Mr G. D. Martineau in his book "Bat, Ball and Wicket and All" says "For a long time nobody thought it worth while laying down how thick the stumps were to be, even after the third stump was added with the object of

preventing the ball being bowled 'clean through the chapel house as they used to call it. It was not until 1828 that the laws stipulated that they were to be thick enough to prevent the ball from passing through and 10 years later they had to be of equal thickness."

The existing law says "The stumps shall be of equal and sufficient size to prevent the ball from passing through them. Their tops shall be 28 inches 71.1 cm above the ground and shall be dome shaped except for the bail grooves. The width of the three stumps together called wicket will be 9 inches 22.86 cm. The bails shall be each 36 inches 11.1 cm in length and when in position on the top of the stumps shall not project more than 1/2 inch 1.3 cm above them."

**Q** A fast bowler is running up to deliver the ball. The fielder at deep fine leg is standing in the shade outside the boundary line. The striker hooks the ball, which is a boundary, and the fielder runs at least 10 yards inside the boundary line to take the catch. Is the batsman caught?

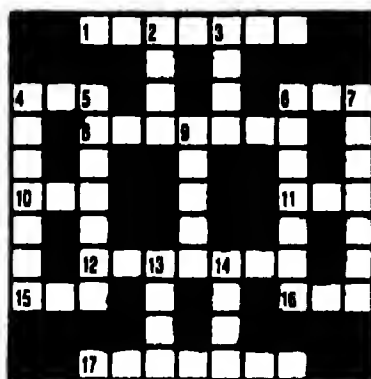
**A.** The batsman is, of course, caught. But the rule makes it obligatory that the umpire should look around and see that all the 11 fielders are within the area. But if he does not notice, he cannot penalise the fielding side for his own fault.



# Crossword

AUDAR

168



## ACROSS

- 1 The sprint queen of India (4, 3)
- 4 The editor of The Cricketer International, only initially (1, 1, 1)
- 6 Golfing term that has a paternal start (3)
- 8 Country hosting the next Olympics (7)
- 10 Initials again, now of former England cricketer 'Gubby' (1, 1, 1)
- 11 Judokas in practice will usually be found on this (3)
- 12 Indian jockey with a positional name ending with a stutter (6, 1)
- 15 Intelligent spinners usually give the ball much of this, returns (3)
- 16 Common complaint for Pataudi and Milburn, the answer jumbled up a bit (3)
- 17 Poetic name for India's middle order batsman and a fast runner between wickets (7)

## DOWN

- 2 When you play squash you automatically— (4)
- 3 One of Pakistan's great hockey players, when contracted, has an egoistic ending (4)
- 4 Young black American with a booming serve and with two circles in between (1, 6)
- 5 One of the countries forming the West Indies (7)
- 6 West Indian spinner now out of the news begins with a cricket equipment (7)
- 7 What cricketers often look forward to (4, 3)
- 9 A boxer's name with political leaning (5)
- 13 Football 'great' (4)
- 14 Another football immortal, this time returning (4)

Smallest: 10-17, Book: 10-14, Pair: 12-12.

# Question box

I Sudhir Vadya

R. K. Chatterjee, Uttarpara  
Q. Could you please let me know who were the umpires when India played 4 Tests in England in 1979, in Australia and New Zealand in 1980-81?  
A. D J Constant and B J Meyer at Birmingham, H D Bird and K E Palmer at Lord's H D Bird and B J Meyer at Leeds and D J Constant and K. E Palmer at The Oval in 1979 M W Johnson and R V Whitehead at Sydney, A R Crafter and R V Whitehead at Adelaide, M W Johnson and R V Whitehead at Melbourne, F R Goodall, and S J Woodward at Wellington, J B R H and D A Kinsella at Christchurch F R Goodall and S J Woodward Auckland

Rajeev Tokak, Adi

Q. Who has scored the highest number of centuries in Tests? How many does Sunil Gavaskar need to break the record?

A. Don Bradman of Australia has scored the highest number—29 centuries in Tests Sunil Gavaskar, with his 25 centuries in Tests, needs five more to break Bradman's world record

Kiran Rudra, Kathara; Prashant Roy Chowdhury, Barbil.

Q. What are India's highest and lowest scores in Tests?

A. 644 for seven wickets declared by India against West Indies at Kanpur in 1978-79 is India's highest total, whereas her 42 made against England at Lord's in 1974 is the lowest total in Tests

Chabi Tanti, residence not stated

Q. Who scored the highest of runs in the Ranji Trophy this season?

A. Sunil Gavaskar scored the highest aggregate of 632 runs in six Ranji matches for Bombay in 1981-82

Kankana Chakraborty Dhanbad

Q. How many centuries have been scored by I T Botham of England against India?

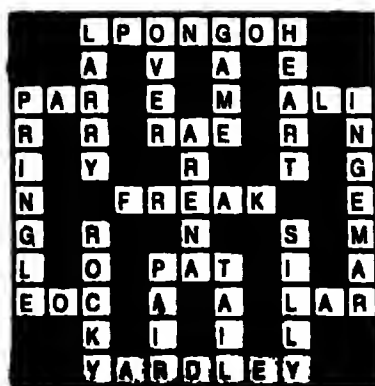
A. Five in 14 Tests against India

Kanheya Lal Tharwal, Katakandi

Q. Who were the Indian cricketers who played in all Tests against England in England in 1959?

A. P Roy, Surendranath, S P Gupta and P B Desai

## SOLUTION 167



Ranjan Des, Digbol; Babul Mantri, Sindri; Shashi Shethar Singh Monphyr, Hari Pager Kharde, Nasik; Arun Kumar, Shorkunda; S.N. Benny, Patna.

Q. Who was the Indian manager in 1959 when India toured England?

A. Fatehlinghrao Gaekwad

Jai Singh Anshala, Sardarsahar

Q. Name the batsmen from the West Indies with the aggregates of over 5,000 runs

A. Sobers (8,032), Kanhai (6,227) and Lloyd (5,831)

N R Pura, Nerasimharajpur, Srikhegapat

Q. What is Roger Binny's first-class cricket record?

A. He has played in 88 matches, 107 innings, has remained eight times not out, scored 2,864 runs, 211 not out being his highest score, 28.92 average, hit four centuries, 14 half centuries, nine ducks, taken 39 catches, 98 wickets for 3,984 runs at an average of 41.50

Sadhan Kumar Mendat, Dhanbad.

Q. Was B S Bedi an off-spinner or a leg-spinner?

A. Bedi was a left-arm slow spin bowler

Susanta Chakraborty, Bardwan.

Q. Is there any necessity of any type of academic qualifications for being the captain of a Test team?

A. No, not at all.

N V Remdes, Bhadrak

Q. What is the maximum number of balls bowled in an over?

A. As many as 13, consisting of six legitimate deliveries and four no-balls and three wides were bowled in one over by G O Allen of England against Australia at Manchester in 1934

## Quiz

I Ranjit Ghose

## QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with appropriate letters so that the completed word becomes a term associated with the sport noted within brackets:

- 1 T — P — R (Swimming)
- 2 B — — ST (Squash)
- 3 HO — — ING (Cycling)
- 4 — UMP (Motor rallying)
- 5 SL — D — (Rowing)
- 6 — QUA — (Weightlifting)
- 7 S — — P — OAR — (Athletics)
- 8 T — — EL (Boxing)
- 9 P — T — HE — (Baseball)
- 10 — AJ — M — (Karate)

## ANSWERS

1 A E  
2 O V  
3 B I  
4 T S  
5 I E  
6 Y N  
7 K A  
8 V A  
9 E  
10 I

**Q. What is the highest individual Test score for England, Australia, the West Indies New Zealand, India Pakistan and South Africa?**

### Boris Schapiro

I am not sure of my team's line up for the coming event, but last year I played with a promising youngster - T Reese - and we were narrowly defeated in the main teams event. This was a hand where I thought we did rather well.

♠ 10 8 6 3  
 ♥ Q  
 ♦ 7 4 2  
 ♣ K J 7 6 4  
 ♠ A Q  
 ♥ J 8  
 ♦ A 10 8  
 ♣ Q 9 8 5 3 2  
 ♠ K 7 2  
 ♥ 10 6 5 4 3 2  
 ♦ Q J 9  
 ♣ 10  
 ♠ J 9 5 4  
 ♥ A K 9 7  
 ♦ K 6 5 3  
 ♣ A

At the other table the contract was the same although the bidding had followed a different route. But when declarer led ♠ K from the table, East trumped low. South over-trumped and cashed his two top hearts to discard diamonds from dummy. West ruffed the third round with ♠ Q and cashed ♠ A but now found

**A. 365** not out by **G Sobers** for the **West Indies**, **364** by **L Hulton** for **England** **337** by **Hanif Mohammad** for **Pakistan**, **334** by **D G Bradman** for **Australia**, **274** by **R G Pollock** for **South Africa**, **259** by **G M Turner** for **New Zealand**, **231** by **Vinoos Mankad** for **India** and **157** by **Sidath Wettimuny** for **Sri Lanka**

**A** He has played 47 Tests 74 innings and was four times not out, scored 4129 runs, 291 was his highest score, aver age 58 98, hit 13 centuries, 17 half centuries, four ducks, 47 catches, has taken 13 wickets for 702 runs and was captain for one Test

This week's quiz: At love all as South you hold ♠ A J 3 2, ♥ A K J 10, ♦ K 9 3, ♣ 4 2. West deals and opens one-spade and this is followed by two passes. What action should South take? You could give consideration to the respective merits of a no-bid, 1NT and double.

# Chess

1 P=04, P=04; 3 K2=K23, K2=K23  
3 P=04, P=1; 4 K2=P, K2=K3  
8 K2=K2, K2=K2; 6 P=K2, 6=K2  
7 0=K2, K2=04; 8 P=K24, 8=K3  
0 K2=K2, 0=0-0

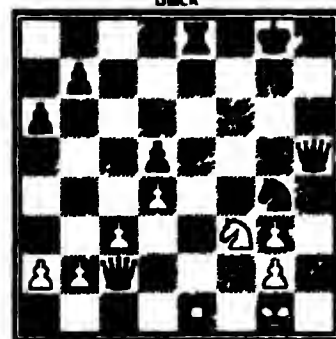
In *The Scotch Botherill* and Harding describe this as a poor move, quoting games with 10 K2=K3 and 10 Q=K4 that lead to an advantage for White.

9 K2=K23 is regarded as best  
10 K2=K2, K2=K2; 11 P=K2...

**A** He played in 13 Tests, 22 innings was once not out scored 984 runs, 137 was his highest score, 46.85 his average hit three centuries four half centuries and two ducks

25 B - R, P - 05;  
27 B - Kish, K - 01,  
28 B - 02, P - 04;  
31 Q - 02, P - 05;  
32 K - 01, Q - 04;  
35 Queen

If 35 P-K23 then 35 P-Q7ch 36 QxP  
Q-R8ch 37 K-K2 P-B6ch mates next move  
Composition 8540. Solution next week



**White**  
Black to play and win. Grade 3 (medium)

**Solution to 8530 (Parish - Dorcas, Moscow, 1986).** (1rk1/p4p1/6p4/6/1/1/1P1P1/Pr1B2P: 0k1 - Black to play.) The Hungarian grandmaster brought about a decisive simplification by 29 R(h2) x R2, 30 P x R R x R, and White resigned for he would lose the pawn ending after 31 R x R B x Pch 32 R - B2, P - B4.

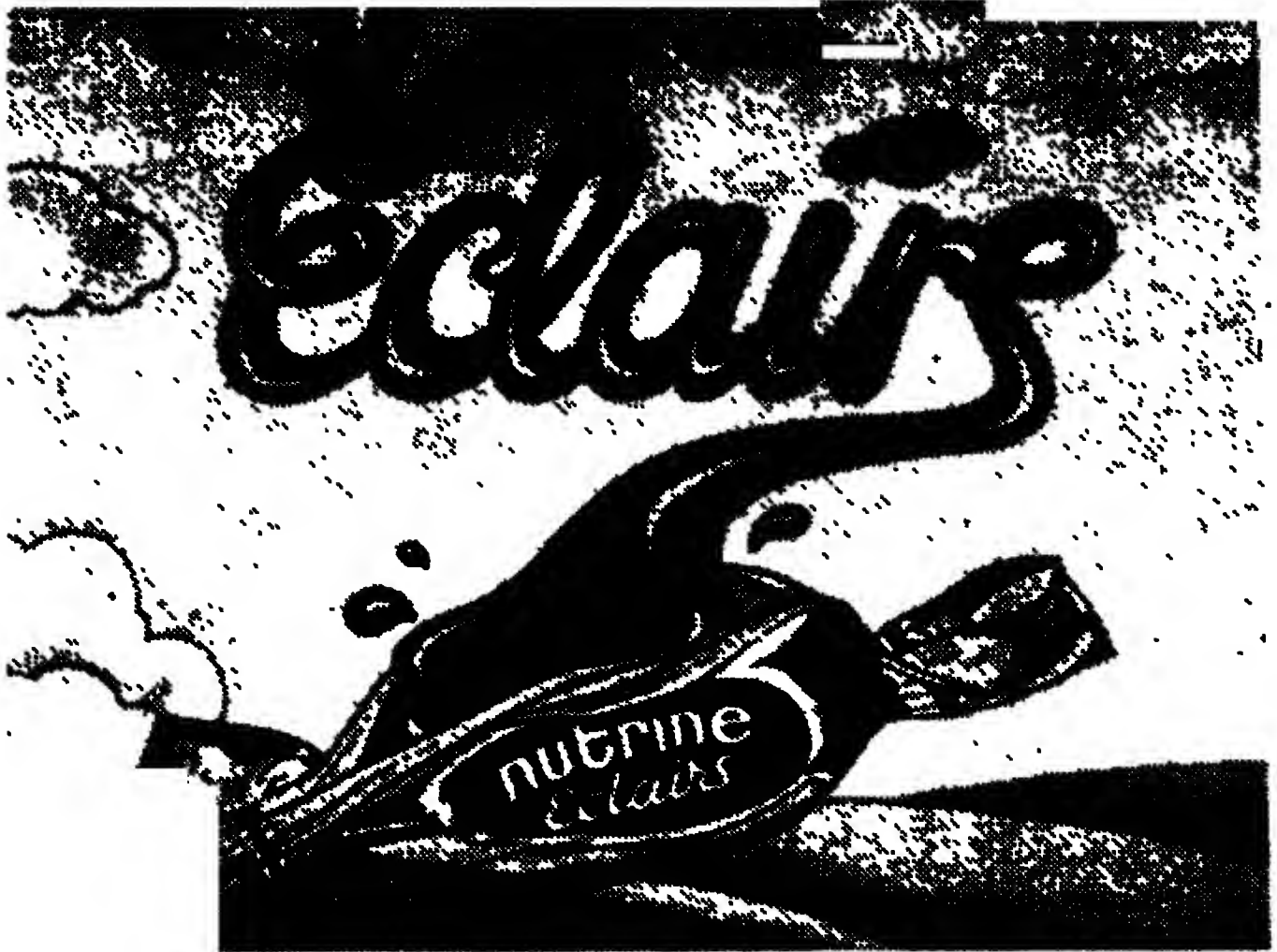
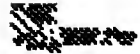
**F Hookey (1208 Solution next week)**  
**F Hookey (First Prize Chess Monthly 1205)**  
 (1)h4d4/p1/p3b5/1/Pp1p/p2np1B/1CR2/3P1-  
 R2/8 - 10 white men; 8 black)

White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1205 (Chinese) (1B2B3/1P1R1b2/ K2N4/K2p1P2p1P2R4/pR3b2 - mate in two)

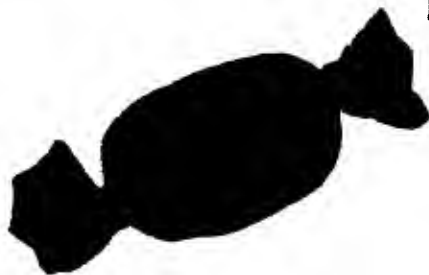
1 P-K4 (threat 2 R(B7) x B6) (a) 1 K-K4  
2 R-B6, (b) 1 B-Q1 2 R-K6, (c) 1  
R Px P p 2 Q-K3, (d) 1 BP x P p 2  
R-K4

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# Too tired for homework?



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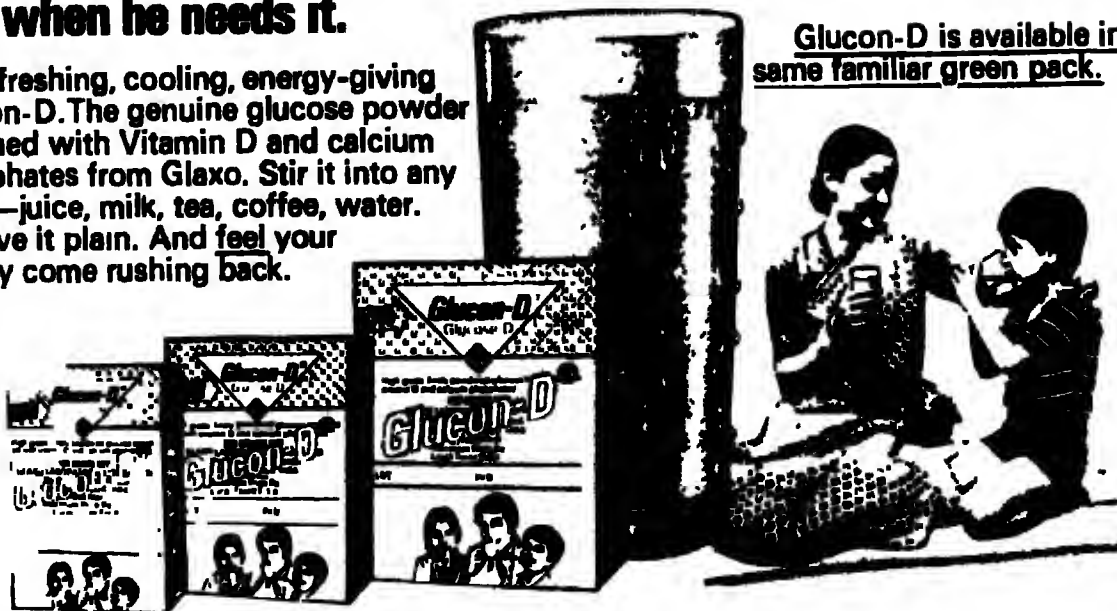


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VOLUME V ISSUE 1 AN ANANDA BAZAR PUBLICATION Rs. 250



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PETER JORDAN sends his copy from Brisbane on the Commonwealth Games There was much more to the Games than just the medal tallies, emotion, tears and other factors counted as well



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Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Bercar  
Correspondents Bombay Hareesh Munwani Madras Ashok Kamath  
Staff Photographer Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Art Director Bipul Guha

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## Letters to the Editor

### Plans

I HAVE some suggestions in mind that would do Indian cricket some good if they were enforced At present there are five zones which are unequally divided and which provide the basis for the Ranji Trophy So let there be six zones, divided in the following order

I suggest the North Zone comprising Delhi, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab It would be good if the Central Zone were to be constituted by Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Vidarbha The West Zone ought to be composed of Baroda, Bombay, Gujarat and Saurashtra while East Zone of Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa It would be good if South Zone were to be constituted by Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu

I would further suggest the forming of an entirely new zone—Northern Central I think that Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu would be the best teams to compose it

After the first round of zonal matches the two top teams should be scheduled to qualify for the second round of league matches On the basis of the points in their respective zones the teams should be split up in such a manner that say, the first, fourth, fifth, eighth, ninth and the twelfth team went into one half and the rest in another. This system will make both the sides, more or less, balanced The league system in each would throw up two sides with the highest number of points and they should be played in the final

In this system, a total of 69 matches would be played instead of 55 matches of the present system Moreover, the number of matches of teams is designed to increase after the first round, giving

them ample opportunity to prove their strength

JAGDISH PATRA,  
Matkambeda

### Wrong reply

AT one point in the interview with my son, Dibyendu Barua, that appeared in the Sportsworld of 29 September he gave a wrong reply as he was not aware of all the facts The coach for a minor player like Dibyendu is selected by the AICF only after due consultation with the guardian of the player and the secretary of the State Chess Association So, the statement published in the box on page nine is not correct BENOYBHUSON BARUA, Calcutta

### Negative approach

IT has been seen over the past couple of years that the Indian side is playing with four instead of five regular bowlers This has been done in order to strengthen the batting line-up This imposes tremendous burden on the bowlers, at the same time limiting the scope of the fifth bowler in representing his country No Test side can afford to win unless she bowls out the opponents twice The last England tour showed our lack of penetration and variety in the bowling department We failed time and again to bowl them out twice in a game

In keeping with the coming tours to the West Indies and Pakistan I hope that the selectors will show some positive outlook

UTTAM BHOWMICK,  
Sodepur

### Wanted: a pace bowler

WANTED A genuine pace bowler for the Indian cricket team Qualifications Minimum three years of experience as a fast bowler in the national tournaments like the Ranji Trophy, the Duleep Trophy and the Deodhar Trophy The candidate should

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have been a citizen of India for the last ten years.

Those who are interested should apply to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) immediately.  
**RAKTIK KUMAR ROY,**  
Bhadreswar

## Politics again

**A**FTER hearing the composition of the East Zone team for the Duleep Trophy it was easily understood that politics was the base of quite a few selections. The East Zone champions and Ranji Trophy semi-finalists, Bihar, could offer only two players. Cricketers of quite a high order like Victor Joseph, Shashi Nair, Venkat Ram and Shekhar Sinha were inexplicably excluded.

Victor Joseph had hit up 160 odd in the league and had also scored a responsible and stylish 69 against Saurashtra. He would have been an ideal choice to open the innings and not Palash Nandy. Nair had also hit a hundred (unbeaten) against Saurashtra added to a couple of 60-plus innings. Venkat Ram happens to be the best off-spinner cum-batsman in the zone, yet continues to be ignored. And Shekhar Sinha, who even with his limitations is the best seamer in the zone, does not even figure in the reserves.

The selection is a shame on the East Zone selectors who concentrate solely on the Bengal players whether they do well or badly. If this sort of attitude continues then East Zone can never be a good side.

**V R RAO,**  
Jamshedpur

## Concept should change

**A**SINCE about 30 years, since the hosting of the first Asian Games in our country, the lot of our sportsmen is just the same. A nourishing diet, a dignified residential place and other bare necessities are still considered privileges in our country. Many who brought us honours in the assembly of nations have died of deadly diseases,

while others have sold their medals for two square meals a day. The souls of Nehru, Pankaj Gupta, G D Sondhi and Anthony D'Mello will never rest in peace unless the very concept towards sport and sportsmen is not radically changed.

The ensuing Asian Games is being looked down as a mere money spinning extravaganza. What love for sports is it going to generate among the masses? Any efforts to encourage mass participation?

Will the Government wake up and make it compulsory for the above agencies to maintain teams in all disciplines by reinforcing the special relaxation rules for recruitment? Only then will every parent encourage and feel proud of their wards taking to sports in a serious way. Stadium velodromes and flyovers alone are not going to produce world beaters. Let us make sport a dignified and fruitful pursuit.

**RAJENDR PRASAD**  
New Delhi

## Wanted: A seamer

**A**S THE English tour has become very clear that India badly needs a good seamer who can assist Kapil and Madan Lal. There are two very promising young medium fast bowlers who come up to expectations. One is P Banerjee of the Indian Railways and the other is Rajender Singh Chahal of Punjab. According to Kapil Dev's statement in the Nagpur Times, P Banerjee is a boy of very high promise. These players should be encouraged and I feel that their performances in the Duleep Trophy should be watched keenly by the selectors.

**PARITHOSH BOSE,**  
Nagpur

## Final say

**A**LTHOUGH the best to Ghulam Ahmed and Company in the selection of the cricket sides of our country. They ought to remember Umarfar and his lot for the don't's!

**L A L I T H A**  
**VAIDYANATHAN,**  
Tirupur.

## Editor's page

proceeded to appoint him as the only in a "cricketing" sense. Mr Salve, with the support of a seasoned politician, managed to be supported by the group and postponed by the other, and was elected unanimously. As such and depending on how he intends to operate, he may feel indebted to all or to none. In any case, the establishment received a jolt which it might really have anticipated. For most of us this was a direct corollary to the resignation of the president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association a few months ago. Mr R. P. Salve was no benign despot and after ruling Delhi cricket for two decades, even those outside the game began to question his methods. It required some "political assistance" to convince Mr Salve to see the light and accept the inevitable, but his long tenure at a high level in cricket administration gave rise to speculation that there could be more than one black sheep in the fold.

Not only is R. P. Salve all of these things but also a longtime political associate



and remains a personal friend of the former president, S. K. Wankhede. Mr Wankhede, recently and fully recovered and himself hospitalised with a broken leg, was indeed good to mention his considerable forces and influence in the field.

There was another person who for some time has been of Hyderabad replaced P. Umrigar as the chairman of the selection committee. It then set back with some satisfaction and other news

proceeded to appoint him as the only in a "cricketing" sense.

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P. Umrigar

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It required some "political assistance" to convince Mr Salve to see the light and accept the inevitable, but his long tenure at a high level in cricket administration gave rise to speculation that there could be more than one black sheep in the fold.

This in turn immediately gave an opportunity to those

who had been wrongly advocating a certain personage for all sporting activities in India as the only person of interest in the only remaining subcontinental association. And if there is going to be further Government attention, the Board can blame no one except itself for this state of affairs.

The imminent designation of the managers of Pakistan will give some indication of how the hand lies for Mr Salve. The last time the Gaekwad of Baroda made a befitting and a diplomatically sound choice, and if available he should be acceptable to all, but the election of his



S. K. Wankhede

assistant will certainly cause debate and unless a consensus is arrived at before the meeting, it will be interesting to see who will be prepared to be at variance with a Minister of the Central Cabinet.

*S. K. Wankhede*

# "You have to contribute to the game"

Air Marshal (Retd) Noor Khan tells  
A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**I**N the galaxy of retired air chiefs invited to the golden jubilee celebrations of the Indian Air Force, was Air Marshal G. E. Gibbs, its last British chief, now a well-preserved 85. But not even he got the press that Air Marshal Noor Khan of Pakistan received. The reason was obvious. Noor Khan's contribution to that country's squash, hockey and cricket.

*This retired Pakistani Air Marshal believes that before a country talks of producing world-class sportsmen, it is duty-bound to provide the facilities in which they can be bred. His recent statement pressing a desire to resign the presidentship of the bodies controlling Pakistan's hockey and cricket created a stir in that country.*

*He wanted to quit because Pakistan did not provide the facilities to produce top class sportsmen. You just had to give the sportsmen the best facilities if you had to survive in modern sport, he told Sportsworld during the course of an interview shortly before he took off from Delhi Airport.*

**SPORTSWORLD** You are the most eminent sports leader in Pakistan. Don't you think there should be more frequent sports exchanges between our two countries?

**NOOR KHAN** I agree that there should be more frequent exchanges. Cricket and hockey have shown the way. The doors are now open for the other sports to follow.

**SW:** There are so many other sports: football, athletics, wrestling, boxing, weightlifting, volleyball, basketball, to mention a few. Why are they not following the examples of hockey and cricket? Is the fear of defeat preventing them from doing so?

**NK:** I am not concerned with these games. But nothing stops an exchange of teams. In the case of hockey and cricket government per-

mission has now almost come to be taken for granted.

As for the fear of defeat, I don't think that is correct. In hockey and cricket at least no one takes defeat so seriously any longer when India and Pakistan play each other. You win or lose, and the public forget about it all the next day. That's how it is now.

In this matter of sports exchange I would also stress that it should be at many levels. For example, you have a great number of sportsmen in your railways, so have we. There could be an exchange of teams between the Pakistan and Indian Railways, or the airlines of the two countries.

**SW:** You have headed three sports bodies in your country, improving each one beyond recognition. Can you tell us the secret of your success?

**NK:** It is like running an air force or any other organisation efficiently. Like putting the right people in the right places and doing all you can for those who actually play the game. It is, after all, for their good that you are supposed to be there at the helm of affairs.

**SW:** People do know something about Pakistan's cricket and hockey, and what you have done for the two games, but not much is known about your contribution to squash and the facilities you have built up for that game.

**NK:** I was heading Pakistan International Airlines when the squash complex was built in Karachi. We were making good profits and I thought it was the duty of a government-owned undertaking to provide the facilities for the game rather than simply pay dividends. After the PIA squash complex came up, Pakistan acquired a new status in the game.

**SW:** In countries like Pakistan and India, lack of funds is a constraining factor in building up modern facilities, which are very expensive.

**NK:** Funds have to be found for good modern facilities, without which there is no future for sportsmen. Lack of funds is not a very convincing excuse.

For example the astroturf at New Delhi must have cost you Rs 60

lakhs. It will last for several years. That is not much money, taking a long-term view.

Another example. Who are the thousands and thousands of people who come to cricket or football matches at Calcutta? They are the ordinary public, to whom the government owes a duty. You are staging the Asian Games, and look at the stadia and other infrastructure that have come up in New Delhi.

You have spent a lot of money, but you have acquired very good, modern facilities. As I said, if you don't build facilities, you do not have a future in modern sport. Our squash players were always good, but after we built the modern PIA courts we began making a more meaningful international contribution to the sport. Without such things, you are like beggars, however good you may be.

For example, you have been Olympic champions at hockey for so long, but you don't have much voice in the world councils. You have to make contributions to the game, which can only be done if you have good facilities. You can then stage international tournaments and make other contributions internationally.

Take cricket. For five or six days in a Test match players spend most of their time at the ground. The pavilion must have all the facilities for them. Even Lord's, built a hundred years ago, provides better facilities than what we have in these modern times. If foreign teams complain, we have no answer. To survive in the world of sport we have to provide good facilities.

**SW:** You must be looking forward keenly to the Indian cricket team's tour of your country.

**NK:** Yes, indeed. You have a good side, particularly strong in batting. I think it will be a very close series.

**SW:** Umpiring has been a matter of dispute in the past. Any steps by you to eliminate complaints?

**NK:** Yes, there were complaints in the past. Our own team was involved in a controversy over the umpires in the series in England. It is usually the losing team which complains. The year the West Indies toured, we invited observers.

Kanhai was in Pakistan then and we invited him to stay on as observer. Similarly, we had English observers, Bailey and Subba Row among them, when their team toured. We also proposed to invite observers from India when your team visits us.

On this question of umpires and observers, I am glad to note the very helpful and sporting attitude of your Board president, Mr Salve. He believes that in cricket we must learn to take umpires' decisions with grace. Neutral umpires are all right for other sports. Cricket is different. Compared to other sports, cricket is like a small club. Your president has a very healthy attitude to the game.

# ASIAD VENUES

**T**HE cycling events of the Ninth Asian Games will be held for six days at the newly constructed Yamuna Velodrome from November 21 to 28 with the rest days. This velodrome is situated 14 kilometres from the Asian Games Village.

The construction work was undertaken by the Delhi Development Authority and the estimated cost is Rs. 98.53 lakhs. It is located on the northern side of the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium, suitably integrated with it and merging into the environment of the Rajghat Sports Complex.

The cycle track is so planned that each competitor will have more or less the same wind resistance during the event. The concrete track has a minimum slope of seven degrees at the starting point and a maximum slope of 38 degrees.

The width of the track is seven metres as per international standards. Its length is 333.33 metres. The outside edge of the track is provided with a safety fence. The spectators' gallery is five metres away from the track. Access to the track centre is by means of a tunnel with ramps. The velodrome has adequate facilities for the media.

There will be seven events, all for men, includ-

## Right on track

ing two road races during the Ninth Asiad. The cycling events will get off with the 100 km team trial on the Dharu Hera highway to Jaipur. The closing of the cycling events will be held on November 28 with the 185-km individual road race to be held at Dhaula Kuan. The remaining events will be held at the Yamuna Velodrome.

When the velodrome at the National Stadium, the venue of the First Asian Games, was demolished after the 1969 Nationals to facilitate the expansion of the athletics cinder track from six to eight lanes, the authorities concerned had promised another cycling track. That, of course, did not happen. This was a great setback to Delhi cyclists.

After Rai was dropped as a venue for the Asiad in 1980, cycling also was one of the few events dropped

from the list. It was some time in the early part of 1981 that the Special Organising Committee acceded to the repeated requests of the Cycling Federation of India and the event gained entry once again. There was a move to add women's events too but this did not materialise. Though the work was entrusted to the DDA in May 1981, not even a brick was laid till the month of July that year.

"But once it got going, there was no stopping the DDA," said the Chief Project Officer, Mr. Ved Prakash Chetal. It is the first velodrome constructed wholly on a superstructure of 112 columns comprising 36 bays. Despite many technical intricacies involved, the DDA engineers have done a decent job.

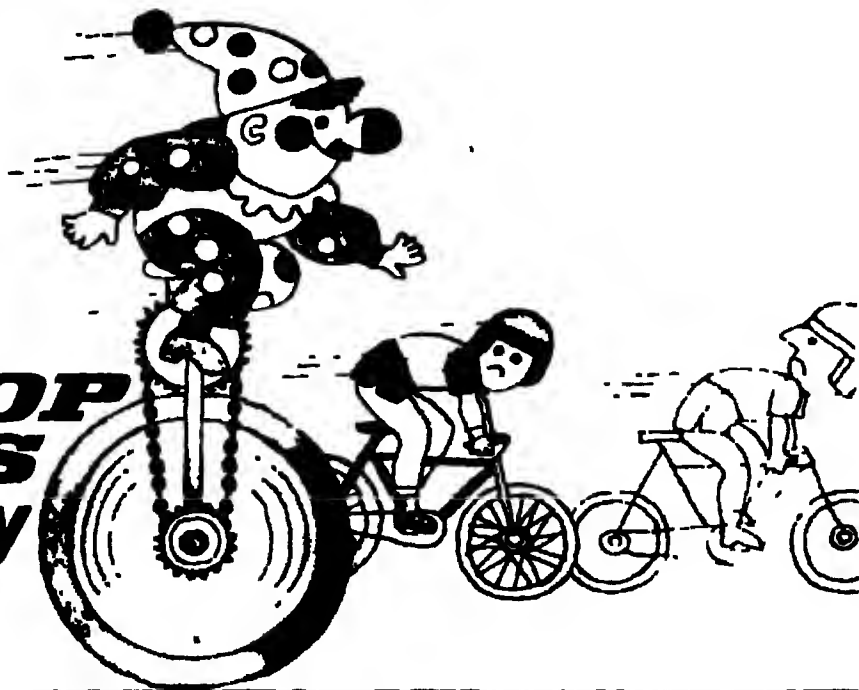
The strip foundation of the columns has been provided by completing the

base with vibratory rollers and plate compactors. On the western side of the velodrome a seating stand for 2,250 spectators has been provided.

The stand has been connected with the flyover by means of five vomitories, while two ramps from the main entrance give access to the flyover. The seating stand is a compact structure of 1200 square metres and provides facilities for the general public at the concourse level. At ground level it caters for the requirements of VIPs and the athletes. A cycle repair shop will be a unique feature of the velodrome.

The president of the Cycling Federation of India, Mr. Harbans Singh, is all praise for the track and other facilities. He has described the complex as the finest in the sub-continent.

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**lead the way**





ASIAD PREPARATIONS

# THE PENULTIMATE ROUND

ARIJIT SEN reports from Delhi

**T**HE first Asian Games, organised by the Asian Games Federation, were held in Delhi, in 1951. The last AGF games will also take place in India's capital. The last, because the AGF will die the moment the Ninth Asiad flame is put off. In its place will emerge the Olympic Confederation of Asia—a body designed almost exclusively to eliminate unwelcome current members like Israel. But that will be happy future history.

Today, India stands in the unique position of being the first and last host of this very popular meeting of nations. The success of the first still lingers in the memories of the older generation. One hopes they will not be soured by the Ninth Asian Games.

At the moment of writing, the latter possibility looms large. This, despite the tremendous effort being put in by Mr Rajiv Gandhi and the Central Government. If the Games fail to live up to the ideals of the Asian Games Federation, one will have to attribute it to the procrastinations of the Special Organising Committee, the ineptitude of its Technical Committee, the in-fighting between the AGSOC and the Indian Olympic Association—aggravated by the presence of officials common to both—and a belated dawning on the Government of the fact that this is not just another official function

which could brook customary delay and indifference.

The Government has spent over Rs 700 crores on preparing Delhi for the Asiad. But has the attention on the infrastructure and actual Games expenses been matched by the attention on the national sportsmen and women on whom, largely, will depend the success of the Games—at least from the Indian point of view? The answer is probably, no. The conflict among the AGSOC, the IOA and the national federations has resulted in the players—representing the Indian federations of different games—not getting adequate food and lodging.

The IOA has asked the federations to meet the expenses of their respective players at the Games Village. This means each federation will have to foot the bills of representatives of their disciplines to the tune of 16 dollars a day for each person. When counted in terms of the rupee, this could be quite a sizeable amount, especially for poorer federations.

The Indian Olympic Association has also asked all federations to pay Rs 1,200 to cover the cost of the ceremonial outfit of each sportsman/woman, in addition to telling them to properly kit the participants—again, at their own expense. But will the federations actually do so? More

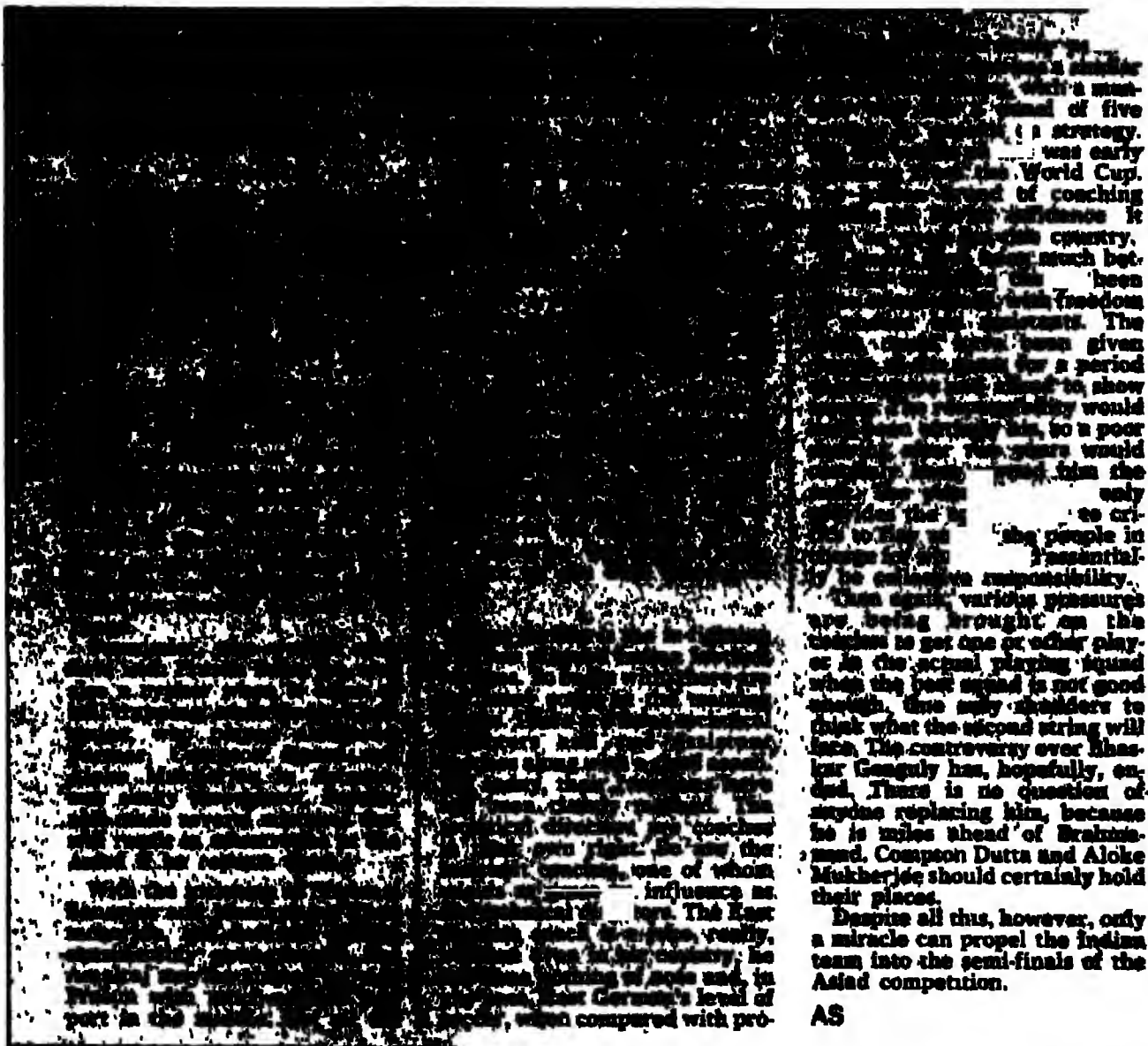
likely than not, the federations will gently but firmly push the ball into the court of the different State associations, whose members have been chosen to represent the country. And the State bodies, true to tradition, will ask the athletes themselves to foot the bill. Up to now, everyone is hoping the IOA will finally pay up, while the IOA feels that the Central Government may, in the end, do so. Several hundred lakhs of rupees have been spent on the stadia, hotels and even on film production. But, apparently, there is no money for the athletes, but for whom there would be no Games in the first place. The Centre can certainly pay the expenses to be incurred on just about 400 participants.

Of more immediate importance, the AGSOC Technical Committee has not yet given the sportswomen and men their Games gear. The advantage of playing host is lost when the facilities are not properly utilised. And, instead of allowing the athletes to practise on the tartan track at the Nehru Stadium, the athletics officials bundled them off to Patiala. The excuse proffered—the Delhi virus—is weak, to say the least. Suppose, despite all this caution, the athletes were to come down with fever during the Games? There is no telling when this form of de-



Training at the Yamuna velodrome—smooth running?





gue will disappear. And if it was the heat that was bothering them, how much difference, one may ask, would Patiala make? Besides, at the time of writing, Delhi was showing every sign of shedding old season for new.

In short, there is no excuse for a change in venue. If there were other reasons for the sudden, dramatic shift of training venue, athletics followers would certainly like to be enlightened on that score. One only hopes the change was not actually effected so that the final selection of athletes for the Games could be done away from the public eye.

Then, there is the question of billeting. The plight of the footballers is not just a matter of concern to soccer lovers. It raises the general question of officialdom's attitude to sportsmen. The Asiad participants seem to be on the lowest rung of whatever priority the officials have drawn up. One cannot expect good results from unhappy people. While the hockey players are having to make do with dormitory accommodation at the National Stadium, the

footballers have been faring even worse. A stretch of Services' property in itself may be used, but the catering of insipid food—reportedly supplied by a Government agency—really cannot be condoned. And yet, sportsmen are expected to perform well. Along with the question "Why should they?", one should add "How could they?"

Since the Games are being held in India, we should be willing and able to take advantage of the situation. Most players are not financially well off and so, left to themselves, they will not be able to get the personal attention they so richly deserve. Isn't it best they are allowed to move into the Asiad Village—with food that could be considerably better in quality? Immediately after the National Women's Sports Festival, all sportsmen asked to don India colours should be brought into the Village—to stay till December 5. A few days break in practice is enough to circumvent any rules on training camp duration that could affect sportsman's amateur status.

It is essential that they get into the Village early. By this, a great deal of the psychological satisfaction of being cared for, can be injected. Simultaneously, full use of each of the venues could then become possible.

India is fielding about 400 participants, it is also putting in about 5,000 officials who will help conduct the Games. Present thinking indicates they will be accorded full hospitality from the day before to the day after their respective events. But there is no "present thinking" in regard to the other days of the Games. And even now, no one seems to know where the officials are to be billeted. During the women's festival, they are likely to be accommodated at the newly constructed Yatri Niwas, but no one knows where they will be lodged during the Asiad.

ONE will not be surprised if there is confusion just before the Asian Games commence. For a long time now, dissatisfaction has been building up at the Special Organis-

...with a man-  
...of five  
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...was early  
...the World Cup.  
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...Ganguly has, hopefully, en-  
...ed. There is no question of  
...anyone replacing him, because  
...he is miles ahead of Brahme-  
...mud, Compton Dutta and Alok  
...Mukherjee should certainly hold  
...their places.  
...Despite all this, however, only  
...a miracle can propel the Indian  
...team into the semi-finals of the  
...Asiad competition.  
AS

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### RULES & REGULATIONS

- 1 The contest is open to all residents of Indian Union
- 2 A contestant can send in as many entries as he/she wishes
- 3 Entries should be addressed to Campa Cola, Sportsworld Sports Quiz, Sportsworld, 6 Pralulla Sarker St, Calcutta 700 016
- 4 Last date for receipt of entries is 27.10.82
- 5 The decision of the judges will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entertained. In the event of a tie, the value of the prizes will be equally divided among the winners
- 6 Employees and the families of employees of the manufacturers and advertising agents of Campa Cola and of the publishers of Sportsworld are not eligible to enter the contest
- 7 No Registered Letters will be accepted
- 8 The winners names will be published in the pages of Sportsworld. They will be informed by post and will be asked their preference between gift or cash at the same time

The last date for  
receipt of  
entries is 27.10.82  
So hurry and get your  
thinking caps on!

A Choice of 3 answers is given for each question. Tick the correct one

- 1 Which of these countries donated the cup for the World Cup Hockey Championship?  
(a) Pakistan (b) Holland (c) India
- 2 In which year did Roger Bannister run the first under four minute mile?  
(a) 1949 (b) 1951 (c) 1960
- 3 What is the maximum number of runs scored by both teams in a Cricket Test Match?  
(a) 1981 (b) 5723 (c) 1002
- 4 In the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games in which event did Harna Singh win a gold medal?  
(a) 100 metres sprint (b) Heavy weight boxing (c) Shot put
- 5 Which famous Wimbledon Tennis Champion had also won the World Table tennis Singles Championship?  
(a) Arthur Ashe (b) Ken Rosewall (c) Fred Perry
- 6 How many countries participated in the last Asiad at Bangkok?  
(a) 23 (b) 27 (c) 28

Complete the following line in as interesting and imaginative a manner as you can using 3 words only. Two examples have been worked out for you

Take a sip, \_\_\_\_\_ and feel the refreshing change

Examples

Take a sip, bite a chip and feel the refreshing change

Take a sip, smack your lips, and feel the refreshing change

ing Committee premises at the Pragati Maidan, ever since the SOC was formed two years ago, about 350 people worked there in some capacity or other and did not mind the unpaid overtime work. All they wanted were cards, or tickets, to the Games. While no decision has yet been taken in this regard, present thinking at the SOC would indicate a denial of this privilege.

When it becomes known that the common courtesy of tickets have been refused, these people may lose interest in their jobs—which could result in the Asiad machinery being put out of gear. As a representative of the lower echelons of the SOC work force said: "They have spent so much money on the modernisation of Delhi and the beautification of Mathura, Agra and other outlying areas. Why can't they spend a little on us? We haven't come here for the money. We could have got that in any case from our respective government offices from where we have come on lien. We came—and worked so hard—only because we thought we would be able to sit in at least one stadium and watch the Games. We were not even given the facility of buying tickets."

A person working under the dual tension of a heavy workload and the uncertainty over the recognition of his services in the form of paid tickets will naturally work at his best in this crucial period before the Games. Something surely ought to be done for these hapless individuals. They could be given the option of buying the unsold tickets one keeps hearing about.

**T**HERE are 22 recognised competitive sports at the Ninth Asiad. There are also two demonstration sports—Kabaddi and Sepak Takraw. Both are to be staged as one-day exhibitions. The Malaysians are coming in very strongly—with a 48-strong contingent including officials. Their Government is paying the entire cost of the team. Kabaddi is an Indian sport. The SOC had decided that there will be three matches—India 'A' vs India 'B', foreign team vs foreign team and Indian women's team vs foreign women's team.

The SOC has said that all expenses should be borne by the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India. This includes match costs, team expenses etc. The foreign affiliates of the Asian Amateur Kabaddi Federation have refused to spend money in bringing a team for a one-day, non-competitive match.

The SOC's insistence on the AKFI paying all expenses for all teams is a very harsh decision. Originally, when the AKFI was making a bid for kabaddi's inclusion as a competitive sport, it was prepared to pay all expenses, six countries were willing to come for the competition, in which



Kabaddi is an exhibition sport in the Asiad. Pic shows Nepal playing against Benqal.

case they would have borne their own expenses. But now, with a one-day exhibition format, no one finds it worthwhile to make the trip, unless it is paid for. It may be recalled that, at the time the IOA was finalising the list of competitions, squash was brought up as a ploy to exclude kabaddi and indoor golf and equestrian in the process.

The only recourse left is for the Government to bear the expenses, a total of Rs 4 lakhs is a drop in its ocean of expenses for the Asiad.

This drop could go a long way in propelling kabaddi into the big time. A well-organised exhibition could pave the way for the sport's inclusion in the Seoul Games four years from now. This is certainly not a high price to pay for the unique honour of presenting an indigenous game to the continent. AKFI officials are right now pleading with the Games officials and the Government to render financial assistance.

**T**HE Technical Committee of the TAGSOC has decided to streamline the administration of the venues during the Asiad. They have set up a venue operations chart which, they hope, will allow the Games to proceed smoothly. At each venue, there will be a chief administrator or an administrator, depending on the size

of the venue and the number of functions to be performed there. He will be in overall charge of all the activities there—services, maintenance, competitions and the like.

There will be a competition director, nominated by the respective national federation. The NIF has appointed one person for each sport to take care of all equipment.

It is at this juncture that one has to emphasise the fact that with so many Technical Committee people around, there is a possibility of confusion over overall control. The administrator and the competition director will have to work in total harmony if there is to be no tension at the venue. Thus far, even if a pin is needed for a competition, the national federation representative has to make a request in writing to the Technical Committee. This practice will have to cease if efficiency and speed are desired.

The Special Organising Committee will cease to exist from the evening of December 4. But, until then, it will share power with the IOA and all national federations. The IOA will, however, have to keep a strict watch over the activities of the SOC and the national federations. It will have to ensure that everything is done—and done well—to see that India is allowed to do its best for and at the Ninth Asian Games.

# MEETCO tangle: The blot thickens

HARESH MUNWANI

**"WE** have not defaulted in any of our payments to the Asian Games Special Organising Committee (AGSOC) regarding the in-stadia advertising contract that we at MEETCO have bagged" revealed Ashok Khanna, managing director of A K Advertising Private Ltd., who represents MEETCO in India

This follows the statements made by Union Minister for Sports, Mr Buta Singh in the Lok Sabha that the AGSOC had got embroiled in a dispute with the Dubai-based MEETCO group of companies in respect of a six million dollars (Rs 6 crores) advertising contract. Mr Buta Singh, who is also the chairman of the AGSOC, merely confirmed a fact that has long been known to keen followers to the Asian Games (*Sportsworld* July 14, 1982)

Reacting to Buta Singh's charge that MEETCO, instead of depositing one million dollars by August 30, 1982, has now sought "deferrment" not only of the payment of the first instalment but also of the "balance of instalments", Ashok Khanna said, "This is not true. We have executed an irrevocable bank guarantee. MEETCO was never supposed to pay cash of one million dollars. I cannot understand it. If the AGSOC is worried, why don't they cash the guarantee? They can, you know. Buta Singh has confused the whole issue in Parliament."

The AGSOC awarded the in-stadia advertising contract for the Asian Games, which commences on November 19, to MEETCO suprisingly in Dubai, and not in Delhi on March 7. At that time MEETCO had executed an irrevocable bank guarantee of three million dollars drawn on Bank of Baroda, which has branches in Dubai and Delhi. This amount was to be paid in foreign currency while the remaining three million dollars was to be paid by MEETCO in Indian currency.

Inquiries in advertising circles have revealed that MEETCO have not been very successful in selling the 1700 sites that are being put up at the various stadia. MEETCO, who had expected to do business of Rs 12 crores, allowing themselves a working profit margin of 20 per cent, have to date booked orders worth a mere Rs two crores. Explaining the poor response by advertisers to MEET-

CO's offer, a media specialist opined, "One reason is that the rates for the hoardings at the various stadia are exorbitant. Moreover, MEETCO has not supplied adequate information, like crowd attendances, TV audiences etc., to justify its high rate."

Obviously MEETCO has realised its error and has now slashed its rates. The revised rent structures have been heavily advertised in the national dailies to attract potential advertisers. In view of this development, MEETCO's profit is naturally going to decrease and it is because of this that they have asked the AGSOC to reduce the value of the contract from its existing value of six million dollars.

Ashok Khanna confirmed, "Our bookings have been far from encouraging. But I don't blame the advertisers for not being keen on buying space at the Asian Games. Take for example the INSAT failure. No one seems to know at AGSOC, nor have they dispelled fears, of how it will affect TV coverage. Neither does the AGSOC bother about telling us as to which countries will get the direct telecast. In fact we have to chase the AGSOC to sign contracts with other countries for transmitting television coverage."

All this leads to one question—if direct telecasts to other countries was not stitched up how did MEETCO fix its rates? Surely the rent of the hoardings would be different if for example 20 countries were getting the direct telecast of the Games as compared to just three countries.

Another intriguing dispute that has developed between the AGSOC and MEETCO concerns the commercial spots that are run on TV before and after a game telecast, like during a Test match or a feature film. Opines Ashok Khanna, "Our contract stipulates that the AGSOC will not permit Doordarshan (Indian TV) to book commercial spots from advertising sponsors to be run before and after a game telecast." One wonders how the Doordarshan authorities will take this.

Buta Singh in Parliament did not give a direct reply to Mr Ram Singh's implied allegation that the contract was given to the group "contrary to accepted conventions and principles of inviting tenders" when the question came up for hearing. Is this the reason why the Government relieved S S Gill, who had signed the contract in his capacity as the Secretary General of the AGSOC? Was Gill "overenthusiastic" to award the contract to MEETCO?

Intriguingly when I asked Ashok Khanna what was his designation in A. J. Advertising, he replied "I am nothing in this company. I am just helping them as a friend." However, enquiries reveal that Khanna is the Managing Director and has been performing the normal duties of an MD.



Buta Singh

**DULEEP TROPHY**

# Mohinder and Maninder stand out

**MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI and  
HARESH MUNWANI report from Bombay**

**A** FORMIDABLE North Zone met East Zone at the Brabourne Stadium in a four-day semi-final. Chetan Chauhan, a contender for the Pakistan tour, lay indisposed with a viral infection and Valson was given another chance to stake his claim in the national side. On a slow and dull wicket, which has a reputation of turning in the later stages, Kapil Dev won the toss and happily decided to bat.

In miserably hot and humid conditions North amassed a huge total of 664 before Kapil felt sufficient pity to declare. The major contributors were Mohinder Amarnath with a career best 207, Malhotra with a polished 139, Kirti Azad a swash-buckling 156 and Shukla a hard-hitting 77. Minor contributions came from Surinder Khanna and Gursharan Singh. While no one will deny the North batting its due praise, it has to be admitted that the East Zone bowling looked tame and thoroughly innocuous. Randhir Singh put in an honest effort and did beat the bat on the rare occasion, but Burman was erratic and bowled too short to waste the new ball.

Dilip Doshi began the day well and till the lunch break the batsmen played him with some hesitation, but at the break he succumbed to a form of food poisoning and took no more positive part in the game. Deprived of their captain and main bowler, East Zone lost all heart. Catches were dropped with frustrating regularity and the ground fielding would have made a side full of octogenarians look sharper and keener. Much the same could be said for the batting with the exception of Gidwani and Dubey, and Arun Lal in the second innings. The others showed neither the technique nor the inclination to fight and most batsmen fell playing across the line and to strokes that should have been left behind with their kindergarten days.

For the North, Maninder Singh seems a promising prospect and he used the slowly-wearing wicket sensibly to claim nine wickets. Shukla chipped in with four and East was truly humbled by an innings and 283

runs. Whilst cricket is obviously flourishing in the North, this performance by East leaves little doubt that there is something basic lacking in its local cricket. It is true that the season in Calcutta does not start till the third week of November and players are expected to participate in national championships with no outdoor practice. But that is no excuse for the lack of physical fitness that was so evident in this match. Compared to some other parts of



Mohinder Amarnath

India, cricket in the East is nowhere as competitive or of a comparative order and the structure of the local competitions must be changed, if the East is going to play representative cricket in September and October it would make sense to select a squad of 15 well before the match and send it to Delhi or Bombay to play against strong club sides to get the necessary practice.

North Zone won without the mini-

mum opposition which makes it difficult to evaluate the performance of the team or the individuals. The finals should give a clearer picture of the expected composition of the Indian team to go on tour to Pakistan. Scores: North Zone 664 for five declared (Mohinder Amarnath 207, Kirti Azad 156, A. Malhotra 139, R. Shukla 77) beat East Zone 161 (Hari Gidwani 54, Maninder four for 48, Shukla four for 31) and 201 (Arun Lal 68, Gidwani 58, Maninder five for 53).

**I**N the years to come the record books will show that West Zone got the better of South Zone in the Duleep Trophy semi-final of 1982-83. Unfortunately, it shall not register the manner of the triumph nor shall it acknowledge the odds against which West Zone achieved their objective.

Of the 14 that had been selected to represent West Zone three key players Dilip Vengsarkar, Sandeep Patil and Dhiraaj Parsana were non-starters. This reduced West's already thin resources to a pathetic stage. The batting, except for Gavaskar, failed to inspire confidence while the bowling was devoid of variety or penetration. On paper, South Zone had the better balance. If West still managed to come through their ordeal with flying colours, it was because their approach to the game was professional and the determination to do well was omnipresent.

Sunil Gavaskar won the toss and must have soon regretted his decision to bat. West Zone had five men back in the pavilion for a paltry 47. Gaekwad got a tickle to a ball that was leaving him, Ghulam Parkar fended awkwardly a rising delivery to gully, Gavaskar was yanked and Bhalekar slashed at a wide delivery. To add to West Zone's problems, Milind Gunjal was ruled run out despite the fact that he was home.

But for the next three and a half hours, Ravi Shastri and Ramesh Borde defied the South bowling and denied them any further success. The pair set about the task of raising a decent total and added 127 runs for the sixth wicket. Once again, not that it was needed, Shastri exhibited a temperament necessary to survive a tight situation and played a patient and tight knock.

Ramesh Borde, unknown to many a cricket enthusiast, chipped in with an equally efficient 89, undeterred by the reputation of the bowlers. Borde played every ball on its merit. He survived a chance at 47 of Bhatt, when Kirmani failed to fasten on to a edge.

In the first over on the second morning, Shekhar removed Borde and Uday Joshi to make West Zone 201 for nine. At this stage, the South Zone batsmen must have had visions of batting soon. But they had not reckoned with the guts of Suresh Keshwala and Balwinder Sandhu.

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The duo kept South in the field for another two hours and in the process boosted the total by 112 runs, a record for the last wicket in Duleep Trophy. It once again drove home the point that no innings is over till the last batsmen are dismissed.

Both, Keshwalla and Sandhu, batted most authoritatively. They are no sloggers. If West were able to make a match of the contest, a large credit must go to this duo. Playing with straight bat and cutting out all frills, Keshwalla and Sandhu displayed their cricketing worth as being more than mere bowlers. There was only one way the two could have departed—a bad umpiring decision. Sandhu turned his back on a rising delivery from Binny and off his shoulder the ball went to second slip and the umpire surprisingly upheld the catch.

Shekhar, six feet three inches, was able to make the ball rise disconcertingly and fully deserved his five wickets. Roger Binny, as always, did his bit and captured three.

Chasing 313, South began with Srikanth and Binny. The former likes to go for his shots and if it's his day they come off. If not the end result is not difficult to acquire. It was not to be his lucky day. Srikanth offered Keshwalla a return catch which was not accepted and saw a miscued hook fall in a vacant region, before being held by Gaekwad at slip of Sandhu. Binny fell in, more or less, the same fashion.

L. Sivaramakrishnan and Vishwanath put their heads down and played with a sense of responsibility. The former, gave admirable support to Vishwanath and enabled South to advance from 38 to 129. Vishwanath was caught off the bat and pad by Bhalekar off Shastri soon after he had completed his half-century. The South Zone captain's dismissal at 157 was the turning point of the match.

It was at this stage that West once again played more professionally than their opponents. Gavaskar and his men remained calm under pressure. They were not over-awed by the occasion and what is more important is that everything that went in the air was held by the West fielders.

Sandhu, who captured four wickets with the second new ball and six wickets in all was the main wrecker. South Zone's last pair came together at 222 and like their counterparts from the other side batted in a manner that would do their leading batsman proud.

Abdul Jabbar, despite a knee injury, played an innings of character. The left-handed Jabbar was severely handicapped and in fact, needed a runner but still played an improvised and mature knock. Keeping him company was Shekar. The two added 51 runs for the last wicket.

Though West had a first innings lead of 40 runs the issue was still not

## The false certificate racket

**A**t the time of admission into colleges there is always a mad rush for forged certificates testifying the student's learning towards sports and even his so-called proficiency. The result of this is that genuine sportsmen rarely get a break-in because they are usually outdone in this race for the faked documents.

But this reached a new proportion when it was discovered that Mr Kishan Rungta, a former President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, had himself issued such a certificate under the letterhead of the Rajasthan Cricket Association! He testified that a certain Kailash Sharma, son of Mr Sivaram Sharma, had represented Rajasthan in a number of national tournaments. The truth is, however, that the player concerned did not play in them. It was also mentioned that the player represented Rajasthan in the Ranji Trophy in 1980-81 whereas the player did not! The player had

not even represented Rajasthan in the C. K. Nayudu Trophy in the given season! The document asserted that the person had also represented Rajasthan in the Colvin Shield and the Dungarpur Shield. The truth is that Rajasthan does not play in these tournaments at all! Only the regional sides are eligible for them!

This has repercussions at the State level. Rajasthan entered the finals of the Ranji Trophy seven times during the Sixties and now it is difficult for them to even qualify from that Zone for the knockout stage. And lack of talent is not responsible for this.

In the above case, when Mr Rungta was asked about the issuing of such letters, he laughed and said that since it helped the concerned person in getting admission into the college he saw no harm in issuing it!

**K. RAMESHWAR SINGH**

### RAJASTHAN CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Heavy Secretary's Office,  
Man Industrial Corporation Ltd.,  
Near Loco, Jaipur-302006.


6th July 1981

#### TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Kailash Sharma, son of Shri Sivaram Sharma has represented Rajasthan in the following tournaments:-

1. Cooch Behar Trophy National Championship for 3 years since 1979.
2. He was selected in the Rajasthan squad for C.K. Nayudu trophy in 1980-81.
3. Dungarpur Shield for 3 years since 1979.
4. Represented Central Zone in Cooch Behar Trophy in the year 1980-81.
5. Colvin Shield in the year 1980-81.
6. All India SSB Tournament in the year 1980-81.
7. Selected in the Rajasthan Squad for Ranji Trophy National Championship in the year 1980-81.

For Rajasthan Cricket Association

  
(K. M. Rungta)  
Heavy Secretary

The copy of the letter that was printed in the Rajasthan Patrika, clearly exposing the racket. The letter has been signed by K. M. Rungta

decided. Leg spinner L. Sivaramakrishnan bowled with guile and accuracy. But unfortunately time was running out. Once again, Milind Gunjal and Ravi Shastri stood their ground. Gavaskar in his short innings of 23 showed how a batsman could survive on a turning track. Whether he was leaving the ball or hoisting it for a six, Gavaskar proved it in his own way that when it came to technique there were few to match him.

The customary declaration came at tea. In the remaining time South went through with the formalities. Scores: West Zone 313 (Borde 89, Shastri 51, Keshwalla 56 not out, Sandhu 56, Shekar five for 66) and 231 for eight. (Gunjal retired hurt 69, Gavaskar 23, Shastri 21, Sivaramakrishnan five for 63). South Zone 273 (Vishwanath 56, Jabbar 52, V. Sivaramakrishnan 49, Sandhu six for 86) and 86 for three (Binny 53 not out.)



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...or rough

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# How many captains are prepared to let their spinners learn a lesson?

Dilip Doshi talks to MUDAR PATHERYA on some aspects of spin bowling today

**SPORTSWORLD** Do you think that spinners are on the receiving end these days with the increased reliance on pace?

**DILIP DOSHI** I think that an international side has to have bowlers with whom to bowl sides out and it can be seen that the West Indies and Australia have almost always relied on pace bowlers. As far as the general context is concerned, I feel that you need the best bowlers to win. In India the accent on spin has been from the last 15 to 20 years. The athleticism in cricket has also increased so much that we need more fast bowlers today equipped to bowl sides out than bowlers in other periods of the game's history. Also, the advent of the one day format has not helped the slow bowlers.

It is usually a hard goal for the spinner and a tough school in which to survive. I ask you how many captains are prepared to let their slow bowlers learn a lesson in the middle.

In English conditions a lot of plodding seamers survived till two years back when the covering of the wickets was enforced. Now on the type of wickets available in England only the genuine quickies and spinners can flourish. Personally, I do not think that slow bowlers will never fade away because there will always be many captains who will believe in their utility to win matches.

**SW** Do you feel that the standard of spin bowling has deteriorated over the years?

**DD** As said, the standard of a bowler depends on how he has bowled in his career—there cannot be a shut out to a certain level. If you are an athlete you can go and bowl quick and get the wickets. But a slowie cannot do the same. It requires a lot more than mere spin.

I would not say that the standard has gone down as much as people think it has but the fact is that people play spin better than they ever did before. In the last 15 years people played a lot of spin, especially the Indians and so the lessons are passed down from generation to generation.

When I started playing first class cricket in 1969, you could bowl a flighted delivery to a number nine, ten and jack and more often than not he would end up with a cross bat or a leave. A tallender of today would rarely do this.

I think that batting technique has tightened up tremendously, too. Heavier bats have helped the batsmen to hit long. Twenty years ago, a lot weighing two pounds and eight ounces was considered very heavy. Today, it is just about normal. I myself have used Gary Sobers' bat. And that was two pounds and two ounces or maybe a couple of ounces more.

In this regard let me digress. Sandeep Paul and Shival Yadav owe me £250. We had a bet in England this summer after they had mentioned that Clive Lloyd used four grips on his handle. I disagreed saying that he used more. 'Arre kya baat karthe ho,' they said. So we asked Paul Mott who plays for Lancashire along with Lloyd, and he said 'six'. Later we checked on his bats in locker in the dressing room. The attendant said after counting them 'eight'. Sandeep almost fell hearing that!

Summing up, I think that the importance of the different departments in the game come in phases and cycles. And I am certain that the spinners will hold their own in times to come.

**SW** How would you rank Marks, Hemmings and Geoff Miller as spinners?

**DD** I think that Hemmings is the best of the lot. He has a good loop and a good follow through as well. The others, Marks and Miller, are not as good spinners of the ball as him. Yet, they are what you would term as typical English off spinners, giving nothing away and bowling.

**SW** What about Bruce Yardley? And Derek Parry?

**DD** I saw Yardley bowl at Melbourne last year but he has obviously made long strides since then. As such it is difficult to comment on him because I haven't seen him recently. Parry, on the other hand, is a big and

genuine spinner of the ball. But the problem is that he is not playing a lot of cricket because the West Indies have got such super fast bowlers. I am sure that with more experience he could be even better.

**SW** What is your opinion on the state of wickets that are being prepared in India?

**DD** The Indian pitches are superb batting tracks. They are good for games as runs are scored and this makes the people come and see the matches. It would be ideal if it helped the bowler towards the fourth and fifth days. That would help more results to be worked out though that of course depends on how a particular batting side fares on the first three days.

**SW** Which batsmen are more difficult to bowl at—defensive ones or the attacking batsmen?

**DD** It is more challenging to bowl to a batsman who is willing to take the risks and take on the bowler. Not only does that provide entertainment and excitement to the public but also keeps the bowler thinking as to what the batsman is going to do next. A player like this always gives the bowler a chance.

Then we have a bowler whose batting is based on solid defence. He is the one who cuts out all the risks. The technique as I mentioned earlier, has tightened so much today that we have players who are a brilliant mixture of these two techniques—aggressive and defensive. They are what you would call, the 'percentage' players. 'Percentage' means the cutting out of shots which have more chances of mistakes being committed. The batsman plays shots that are less likely to get him out. The risks taken are calculated to minimise the chances of getting out.

**SW** Do you think that wickets are made with a particular set of bowlers in mind?

**DD** No, I don't think so. It is up to a certain player to make the best of the opportunity. The reason for this is that nobody can predict the wear and tear of wickets precisely. What should be prepared are good cricket wickets.

# There will come a time when spin bowling will be on top again

B S Chandrasekhar talks about his benefit and other aspects of his career to SHANTHI MOHANRANGAM

**H**is has been called a 'tweak' bowler, a 'mystery man', an 'India rubber man' besides other complimentary and not so complimentary epithets. The man in question is none other than Bhasa wat Subramanyam Chandrasekhar—India's second largest wicket taker. Today, devoid of the famous beard the very bowler who bewildered batsmen and commentators of the game for a period of nearly 16 years, is on the verge of being compensated monetarily for his immutable enrichment of the game of cricket in the form of his benefit match to be played on 30 and 31 October at Shimoga, a place about 170 miles from Bangalore.

**SPORTSWORLD:** You have had a long innings in Test cricket. What are the changes that you have seen from the time you made your debut to the time you bid adieu? Changes in terms of the game, the administration and the players?

**BSC:** As far as the game is concerned, it has followed a definite cycle. Today, there is the trend towards fast bowling, whereas during my time it was the era of the spinners. When I entered the Test scene, there were only three recognised spinners—Borde, Parrino and Nadkarni, and all three were all-rounders. Later on came Venkat Reddy and Prasanna. Nowadays all the youngsters want to become Kapil Devs, but this will be only a brief craze and I am positive that there will come a time when spin bowling will be on top again. I do not want to comment about the administration or the players.

**SW:** What reasons would you give for this general decline in the standard of spin bowlers, not only in our country but also in the world?

**BSC:** It is very difficult to say why there has been a decline. Maybe the type of wickets being prepared are not conducive to the spinners but then again in India our wickets continued to be slow. It is not fair to expect India to produce bowlers of the calibre of the time of us since we were one of the rare phenomena who don't pop up every two years.

**SW:** Leg spin bowling has become more or less a dying art. Will the amendment of the lbw rule help in rejuvenating it?

**BSC:** No, I do not feel that by amending the lbw rule, more bowlers will take to leg spin. It all depends on the

person's natural ability. I became a leg spinner despite the lbw rule, which, even though it is quite detrimental to the leg spinner, is satisfactory as it is.

**SW:** How about Somachandra De Silva? He's been called the 'Chandra of Sri Lanka'. How do you rate him?

**BSC:** He has got a low trajectory and bowls quite fast—not as fast as me though. I was last not only off the wicket but also in the air. He does not spin the ball much and like me he is quite an unorthodox bowler.

**SW:** Do you agree that Rakesh Shukla was given his chance too late? What about L. Sivaramakrishnan?

**BSC:** Sivaramakrishnan is, I think, out of the reckoning at least for the present. He is still very young and it is too early to assess him. He's a good bowler, no doubt. As for Rakesh Shukla, when there are four to five spinners staking their claim, at least one is bound to be sacrificed—it happened to the four of us, too. I haven't seen much of Shukla but he is not a bad bowler—very useful in fact.

**SW:** Coming to your benefit match which is being organised by the Durgigudi Cricket Association. Did you choose Shimoga as the venue and not Bangalore? Why did the KSCA allot the place?

**BSC:** I decided on Shimoga only after seeing the very good response to the two Ranji matches that Karnataka played there had attracted. We had played Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and the response was fantastic. Besides a Test Centre like Bangalore is not conducive for such matches. I am expecting a capacity crowd on both the days, since the people of Shimoga have not had an opportunity of watching top cricketers from the North. They have seen Kim and Vishwanath, let not Gavaskar and Kapil Dev. No, the Association did not allot the place, it was my choice entirely.

**SW:** Have all the top former and present stars confirmed their participation?

**BSC:** Well, to tell you the truth, I haven't personally approached each and every player of the present team but I'm sure most of them will turn up. (Here Vishwanath interrupted to say that the entire Indian eleven would be there in Shimoga.)

*'We have played in benefit matches where we haven't even known the person concerned, but in case of*

*Chandra, the entire team or nearly everybody have played with him, so we all definitely be there for the match.'*)

**SW:** In Delhi during the recent one-day international, Kapil Dev and Sandeep Patil went round the stadium collecting donations for your benefit and the response was reportedly very good. Could not something similar have been done in Bangalore, your home ground, where a capacity crowd turned out for the international?

**BSC:** Well, firstly I really do not know how much was collected in New Delhi. And doing the same thing here would have been quite difficult. The players would have had a problem moving amidst the crowds since they would have been besieged by autograph hunters. Besides, Delhi did not have a capacity crowd like this.

**SW:** How about your future plans? Will you be doing any coaching?

**BSC:** Well, I have a 10 to six job at my bank, so I do not think I will have the time for coaching. As long as I was playing Test and first-class cricket, my working hours were pretty lenient, but now it is different. I will be playing for my bank on Sundays, so that day is out too.

I am also writing a book which is in its final stages. The book has a foreword by John Arlott as well as pieces on me by the six foreign captains I've played against like Glenn Turner of New Zealand, Clive Lloyd of the West Indies, Mustaq Mohammed of Pakistan and others.

**SW:** Would you be interested in becoming a Test or State selector?

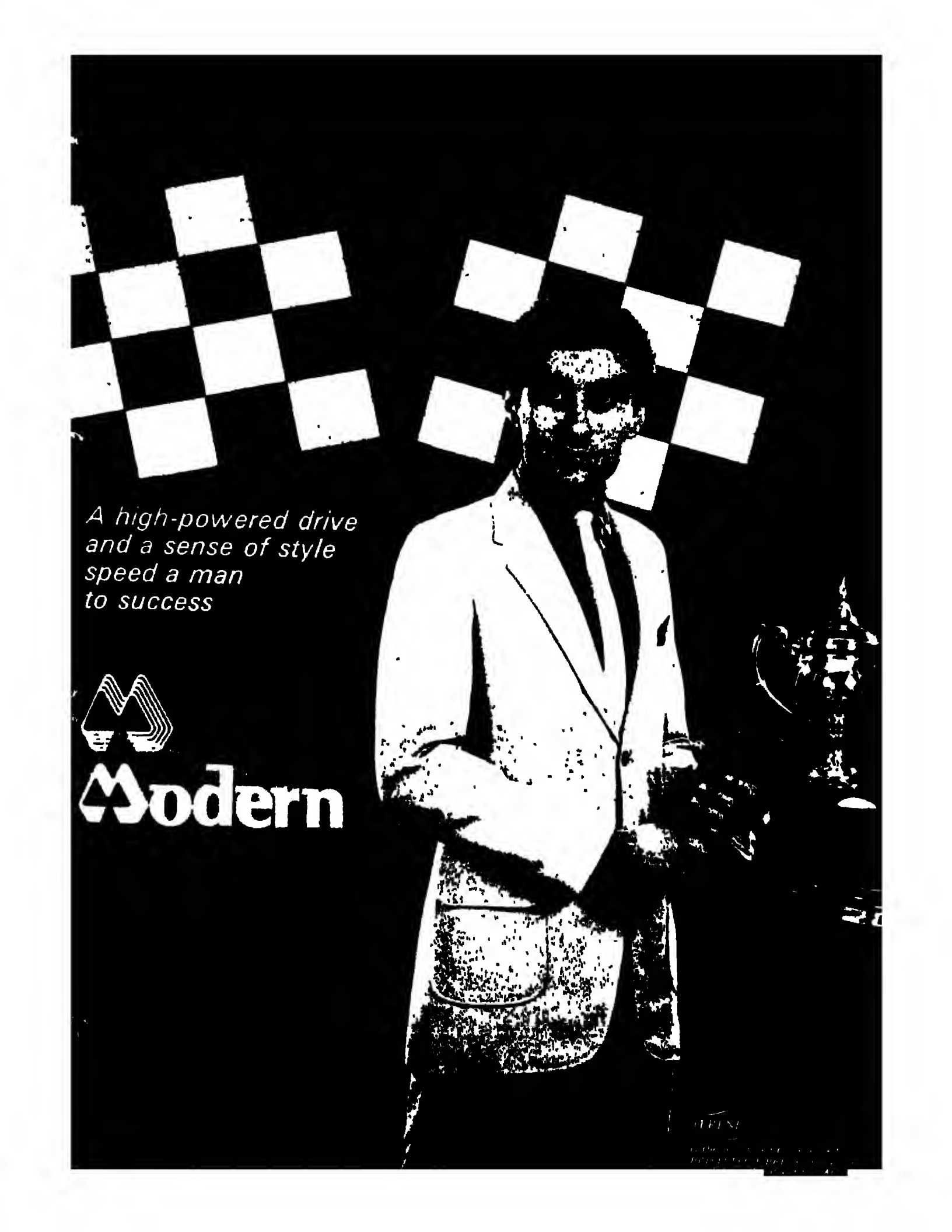
**BSC:** Given the chance I would only be too glad to.

**SW:** Why were you a complete flop as batsman?

**BSC:** I always had the impression that the bowlers were aiming at me rather than the wickets and hence I tended to move away from the wickets and got bowled in the process.

**SW:** One final question. Your son was watching the one-day international very intently. Is he a budding cricketer?

**BSC:** My son, Nitin, is just six. But he has already started on cricket. He plays a little bit at school and he claims to be an all-rounder. So we will have to wait (smiles broadly) and see if he becomes a bowler or a batsman.

A black and white photograph of a man in a light-colored suit and dark tie, holding a large trophy. He is standing in front of a checkered background that resembles a racing flag. The image is high-contrast and grainy.

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# COUNT DOWN 5

## *The storm clouds begin to clear*

**F**OR all the faults, shortcomings or drawbacks pointed out by overworked critics during and after the Trial Games in September, one is happy to observe that all those gentlemen have been well-meaning in their criticism.

So much so that they would be happy to eat their own words to see that the actual Games, drawing closer and closer with each passing day, are a success. After all, haven't the organisers said again and again that the aim of the Trial Games was to find out where the shortcomings lay and how best to remedy the situation?

While the critics were working overtime, one was all praise for the way the Chairman of the Special Organising Committee, Mr Bita Singh, who is also the Union Minister for Sport, went about his job during the "Trialad".

The soft-spoken chairman kept his eyes and ears open, pulling out his pen to jot down in his note-pad any helpful suggestions or criticism that reporters or others had to offer.

The day's work only ended for him and his officers at Pragati Maidan late at night, with a review of the day's happenings at the various arenas. Notes were exchanged and lessons were learnt.

It has been reassuring to see that the hard-pressed Minister, racing against time since the very day he took over as Chairman of the SOC, is determined to see that all rough edges are smoothed out by the time the Asian Games begin, though

that is no easy task. Time is running out and the countdown drawing to a close.

Defects that were noted in the computer system during the Trial Games have now been rectified and it is with not a little relief that one learns that computer terminals at all the venues are now fully operational.

Pragati Maidan is becoming busier day by day as an army of young men and women converge there to be trained in their duties. Many visitors to the Asian Games will judge the success of Appu's Games on the performance of these young people—ushers, guides, interpreters, receptionists and so on. Much will depend on the smiles they are able to wear in spite of the demands that will be made on their patience.

A British expert was summoned to help remove the defects in the lighting in the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium so that the eyes of badminton players—the world's best will be there—are not affected by the blinding glare of the lamps. Hitherto, these had been defectively angled. Dinesh Khanna, former Asian champion, was there himself to test the altered arrangements.

The engineers at Indraprastha, anxious not to allow work there to suffer, were against the idea of staging the volleyball match against the touring Soviet team from Leningrad. This was not only undependable, but also laudable. However, now that such a facility is available, they were somehow persuaded to relent, earning the gratitude of many

a lover of a game which has not got its due for a longtime.

The eating habits and palates of sportsmen are not easy to satisfy. A menu guaranteeing 5,000 calories was drawn up by experts of the Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports. But calories are not everything. Sportsmen following schedules of competition eat lightly or even miss a certain meal. Others advance or delay their eating time. If only the managers of teams are careful about planning their meals and informing the Village kitchen well in time, there would be fewer complaints.

However, the ITDC were fully determined to improve their performance at the women's sports festival. Although no foreign athletes were expected, the ITDC, who have invested more than rupees one crore on imported equipment in their kitchen and dining halls at the Village, planned to occasionally serve Chinese and Western dishes to our hungry girl athletes. To establish a better rapport with newsmen on the Village beat, the ITDC also planned to post a special lady public relations officer on duty there.

Visitors to Tokyo in the Olympics year 1964 remember how the Japanese capital was strewn with debris and rubble till the Games were actually held. Then suddenly one morning everything was changed.

Some such thing could be expected to happen to our own capital one pleasant November morning.



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# Raelene Boyle: Determination personified

GREG SHERIDAN

If you happened to be in a position to have the biting chill of an early Melbourne morning in the Australian winter of 1982 you may have chanced to see, in one of that city's famous leafy parks among the joggers and early commuters, a singularly lithe and graceful runner.

She would have been dressed in a neutral, grey track suit, and there would have been about her movements a lightness and a soft flowing quality which would belie the taut, tough muscles, and the even tougher personality.

You would have been watching one of the finest athletes in Australian history preparing for the last, major struggle of her career. You would be seeing a tiny part of the relentless dedication which made Raelene Boyle Australia's most successful track and field competitor throughout the Seventies.

Raelene Boyle's international career came to a close before nearly 60,000 people at the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. It was not only the last colourful event in her long career as a runner, but one of the most spectacular.

It was in 1970, at Edinburgh in Scotland, that Raelene Boyle first appeared in the Commonwealth Games. She had burst on to the international scene at the Mexico Olympics when, aged 17, she won the silver medal in the 200 metres and came fourth in the 100 metre and relay events.

Raelene remembers her innocence as a young athlete. "I wasn't completely serious at my first Olympics," she says. "It was just something I did on the side. In those days I trained three days a week, now it's seven days. Inter-club competition was as important as the Olympics to me then."

It wasn't until much later that Raelene's attitude changed. "I came to feel that I had the talent to be the best in the world, and the most important thing for me became to fulfil my potential."

In Edinburgh, Raelene Boyle's performance was sensational. She won the 100 and 200 metre gold

medals, as well as being part of the winning 4 x 100 metre relay team. She remembers, perhaps a touch wistfully, "The Edinburgh Games were my first Commonwealth Games. It's always so pleasant with the Commonwealth nations competing because we've all got a common bond, and there's not quite the intensity of the Olympic Games."

She loved Scotland, especially its village life, and returns there whenever she is in Europe. At the Munich Olympics of 1972 it was another magnificent performance for Raelene Boyle. She won silver

medals for the 100 and 200 metre races, and came fourth in two relay events. Mixed with the joy of winning medals was the frustration of being so close to an Olympic gold medal, especially in the 200 metre event. "More than anything else, I remember the pain of that race," she says, "Everything ached."

The Christchurch Games in 1974 are remembered by Raelene as "the friendliest Games I've ever been to". On the track in Christchurch Raelene won three gold medals, and in exactly the same events she had won four years before at Edinburgh. Winning the two main sprint events at successive Games had been last achieved by Marjorie Jackson in 1950 and 1954.

At the Montreal Olympics it looked at last as if Raelene Boyle would achieve the ultimate athletic triumph, an Olympic gold. She had come fourth in the 100 metre race, and was the favourite for the 200 metre event. And then one of those sporting freak accidents occurred which test to the limit a competitor's ability to endure sheer bad luck. At the starting line Raelene was judged to have broken early twice, and was not allowed to compete in the event.

The trauma of failing to compete in her best event was a bitter blow and could have broken the spirit of many athletes. There were also physical problems, she had been forced to have operations on her Achilles tendons since 1974.

Yet that competitive spark which sportsman all over the world experience, led her to compete in the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada. She won a silver in the 100 metre race. But although she has happy memories of Edmonton, in hindsight she smiles ruefully and says "I really shouldn't have gone there. I was a little disappointed with myself for going to Edmonton—I tore my tendon in the gym before I went there. I had to have an operation four days after I came home."

Basically, she says, tendons, like everything else, grow old and wear out.

Operations and injuries were not to end her career, though Raelene was to suffer further frustrations. She was selected for the team to go to Moscow, but—in the political climate of the period—she felt compelled to withdraw.

There are those who think Raelene Boyle's time is past, but you can never write off Raelene. "She's always got a chance," says Raelene of herself. "She's aggressive and she's prepared. Sometimes it worries me that other person inside me is so determined." For Raelene, win or lose, Brisbane will be a glorious occasion. To be running well enough even to compete is a splendid achievement.

Courtesy Carfax



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BRISBANE '82

# A Most Uncommon Games

IT was an uncommon meet in more senses than one. There was a dead heat in the men's 200 metres, the first of its kind in any international meet. Then there was the incredible spectacle of a wheelchair-bound paraplegic winning a gold medal in archery, once again making history. There were many disqualifications in the swimming events and a swimmer retired at the tender age of 19. And finally, the world's best decathlete who refused to carry his country's flag. **PETER JORDAN** reports

**INCREDIBLE!** There was something in Banana Land for everyone. At the end the medal tally did not tell the story—it never really does—of ten glorious days in Brisbane. For as the athletes packed their bags for home they took with them a bundle of unforgettable memories.

The 'empire games', the 'friendly games', call it what you want. One

fact indisputable is that the 12th Commonwealth Games was an overwhelming success. There was a fair share of controversy, but then it only took a back seat.

2000 competitors. Ten disciplines. And at the end of it all after much good-hearted rivalry hosts Australia managed to stay at the top of the medals tally only a gold ahead of England.

Friendship and fraternity were unfortunately, missing only at one place. The Chandler Complex Pool where the Aussie swimmers were involved in a controversial and bitter battle for medals against swimmers from the land of the maple leaf.

The story written at Edmonton was turned upside down. Canada who had dominated the swimming events at Edmonton had to be content with

**WHICH WAY UP** England's Judy Livermore rolls over the bar to clear 1.80 m in the high jump section of the women's Heptathlon.



smaller laurels as the Australians splashed to victory in a pool bubbling with controversy. However, England had the final say because both the Canadians and the Australians were disqualified for, as an official put it, "stealing micro seconds in the relay change overs." There were as many as six disqualifications, five of which went against the Canadians and Alex Baumann's world record was little consolation. Finally the Canadians did stage a walk out.

The Australians too had their problems and there was a serious move on their part to disqualify their Olympic and Commonwealth champion Michelle Ford on disciplinary grounds at the pre-Games camp. As the gold medals were added to the kitty the problems were soon forgotten shelving much embarrassment.

Halfway through the Games in the company of much emotion, tears and joy, Australia, it seemed, were well on their way to easily top the table. The Englishmen thought otherwise and in a memorable effort on the last day came very close to toppling the hosts.

Sentimental stuff there was a lot. Tears trickled down thousands of faces at the Queen Elizabeth II Stadium as the sunny haired golden girl of Australian athletics won an artistic 400 metres to firmly establish that she is one of the greatest ever athletes of all time. Only a few months ago the evergreen Boyle was

For some people it is a great victory which is most important. For others, perhaps, a world record is crucial. However, there is a man who has both and—surprisingly as it sounds—is still not. He's just the sort of person who is always in the limelight, although he much prefers not to be. But when he's left to play Mr. Shadows in the shadows he does not like it one bit.

What bugs the 'Daley Express' more than anything else is when commentators prefer carrying headlines which read 'Coe loses again' rather than 'Thompson wins again'. One cannot help but sympathise with this man, even though he declined to carry his country's flag at the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games because he felt it would take him out for his event. Fair enough, the man was in Brisbane to take part in the decathlon.

That is not the end of the story. In typical Thompson fashion he once said after winning a race and being mobbed by members of the Fourth Estate (and also, probably, BBC popularly called the Fifth Estate) that, "They (the Press) all want to talk to me now that their man (Sebastian Coe) has screwed it up." That's Daley



My name's Daley. Daley Thompson

Thompson for you after two long days of tortuous effort in another sapping heat and humidity. Ten events in under 48 hours obviously brings about tremendous emotional and physical exhaustion. Sitting by a poolside and sipping a cool can of beer and Thompson might have a different story to tell. An enigma this man. No. No. Great. Great—simply great.

DEREK O'BRIEN



Gadamis Shihanga (right) of Tanzania, the eventual winner of the 1000 m final, leads the field

having fitness problems and her win here can be termed a comeback of sorts.

Also on the comeback trail was Scotland's Alan Wells as he achieved a sprint double winning both the 100 and 200 metres. Wells, who had won his heats comfortably, was the favourite for the event and looked confident as he strode to the starting blocks. He had reason to be confident he had won the 100 metres gold at Moscow and had looked an easy winner in the 200 metres till he was beaten in the dying stages by the swift-footed Italian Pietro Mennea.

Wells led at the start of the 200 metres here at Brisbane, going strongly till challenged by the Englishman. In the last thirty metres, McFarlane was the stronger and smoother of the two, while Wells, by comparison, was trying to get every inch of speed. His head rocked from side to side and his arms pumped furiously as he strove to find that little bit extra. But McFarlane did not give way and the two crossed the finish line so close that the judges called for a photograph. At first, watching the slow motion action replays, it seemed that Wells had crossed the line first—Wells himself thought so too—but the final announcement after half an hour creating sprint history and the gold was shared.

# Blazing colours for the Asiad !



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Boyle was the queen of the track. Of this there is little doubt. The equivalent title in the swimming pool could—if there was one—be a toss up between the Australians Tracy Wickham and Lisa Curry. Tracy the darling of the crowd won the 400 and 800 metres freestyle events to bring to a glorious end her success story. It is not very often that we see a nineteen-year-old girl retiring. In fact, in India sportsmen scarcely even begin their careers at this tender age. Anyway, this is not the right time to discuss such problems, so back to Lisa Curry. This Queenslander bagged three individual swimming golds and but for the disqualifications could well have made it five. But then that is what sport is all about, and Brisbane proved this beyond doubt.

**W**ELLS, Wickham, Curry and Thompson were the big names that floated around in Brisbane. Syed Modi was the hero for India winning a lone gold for his country. However, the person who stole people's hearts more than all these put together was the paraplegic archer Neroli Fairhall of New Zealand.

The 38 year-old Fairhall met with a cycling accident when she was 13 and since then has been unable to walk. This handicap did not deter her from putting up one of the most



England's Judith Oakes in her shot put action before winning a gold

## MARKED MEN

*Falklands' popular shooters*

**T**HEY did not break any world records. They did not win any medals. And yet they were, perhaps one of the celebrities at Brisbane, Gerald Cheek and Tony Peterson. The pair were the members of the two-man team from the erstwhile battlefield—Falkland Islands. And ironically both were marksmen.

Gerald Cheek was having a bath when armed Argentine soldiers charged into his Port Stanley home and gave him just two minutes to pack his suitcase. Cheek, aged 41 is a well-known marksman. Besides, he was an administrator with the local airline whose three aeroplanes were destroyed in the war.

Cheek's fellow marksman the bore rifle owner was Tony Peterson who spent time at Port Stanley during the war but also had the sense to be home when the Argentine planes were shot down.

The two were among 15 shooters who were sent to the Belmont range to compete for the gold medal in the two-man team event.



They were both in the top two in the individual events. Cheek was a fun, unassuming, down-to-earth, two-time Olympic champion. He was a marksman who had been in the Falklands since the war. He was a marksman who had been in the Falklands since the war. He was a marksman who had been in the Falklands since the war.

memorable performances of all time and the sight of her receiving the medal as she sat on her wheelchair will be treasured for all who were here for years.

Her win was right out of one of these fairy tales for children easily available at any of Australia's many bookshops. With three shots to go Janet Yates, a teenager from Northern Ireland was ahead and Fairhall had to land her last three arrows on the 'bullseye' to go ahead. She did. The rest is history.

That was not the sensation at the shooting range. A Scottish gunsmith named Arthur Clarke who had turned 60 a few months before the games, won the prestigious full-bore rifle event brushing aside his younger rivals. Grandpa Clarke was chaired off the Belmont range after adding just that amount of vintage touch to the Games.

The Indians did particularly well in the weightlifting events which were held on the first few days of the Games. The weightlifters were by far the most colourful competitors here at Brisbane. There was much laughter and a fair amount of awe from the spectators who heard the grunts and groans of the lifters which many felt were right out of *Star Wars*. But it was strict business in the boxing ring in which the fancied Africans cornered six titles, with the Kenyans and the Nigereans sharing three a piece.

There was a similar type of cornering medals in wrestling with India winning four golds and Canada five, leaving only two medals to be shared by other countries.

After doing disappointingly in the badminton team event the Indians put up a much better show in the individual championships. Ami Ghia and Kanwal Thakur Singh entered the semi-finals of the women's doubles. Here they were just pipped by the English pair of Gillian Clark and Karen Beckman. Even in the singles Ameeta Kulkarni and Ami Ghia also did very well before going down to their British rivals in extended

games. National champion Syed Modi upset the second seeded Nick Yates of England after losing the first game at 7 but then coming back strongly to win 15-6, 15-5. It is unfortunate that the Indians could not strike a purple patch in the individual events. Otherwise India would have surely won a medal in the team event.

While Modi was powering his way to his badminton gold on the second last day of the Games, Indian wrestlers were also on a gold medal winning spree. Rameshwar Singh in the 48 kg class and Mahabir Singh in the 48-52 kg class mounted the win-

**WRESTLING** New Zealand's Neilie Earhall, a paraplegic, shoots for a gold medal in the women's Archery contest.



Jamaica's Bertland Camron strikes to an easy gold medal in the men's 400 m final.

ners podium. Other gold medallists for India on the mat were Jagminder Singh and Rajinder Singh.

It was indeed unfortunate that Satpal Singh who won a silver at the last Commonwealth Games broke his index finger in the final this year. It was a pitiable sight as Satpal was in great pain and could not even grip his opponent Richard Deschatelets of Canada. The gold would have been Satpal's for the taking but the injury saw him lose out 11-3.

Wrestling moved back to ancient times when it was staged in the glorious splendour of Brisbane's City Hall. "At least the losers don't get thrown to the lions anymore—just the press," said competition director Hugh Williams at the end of three days of competition. Surrounded by the marble pillars, walls and floors, he added, "It is about as close as you'll ever get to the original wrestling venues—the coliseum in Rome."

The story of the enthusiasm at Brisbane even continued to the closing ceremonies. Barry Salisbury led a lap of honour and even the Queen had to go right around the stadium to finally declare the Games closed. The flag is down. Four years and then pageantry again. Here we come Edinburgh.

**SIKKIM GOVERNOR'S GOLD CUP**

# Luck sees Punjab Police through

**SUBHASH SARCAR reports from Gangtok**

**T**he dynamism of the Sikkim Football Association president, Purna Kumar Pradhan, helped establish the Governor's Gold Cup as a premier tournament. However, premier teams like East Bengal and Mohun Bagan were never present. Withdrawals, however, are always a problem and this year was no exception as the fixtures had to be rescheduled from the quarter-final stage onwards.

The Nepal XI had to give the tournament a miss because of their Junior Asian Cup football engagements, while the worst offenders were Border Security Force, Jullundur. They had cabled confirmation

but did not show up. This setback resulted in Mohammedan Sporting getting a berth straight into the semi-finals—a phenomenon in Indian football.

Whether Mohammedan Sporting began from the quarters or not, it was clear they had a difficult task ahead. They had to fight a lone battle to salvage Calcutta's prestige because the seven other teams from the city had to make their exit most unceremoniously. Other than Bhratri Sangha and BNR, the rest of the teams were knocked out in the very first matches.

Then again, since some of the teams did not appear, a gap of two

days was created and the SFA had to introduce the double-leg semi. This proved a blessing in disguise for the organisers as it led to increased gate money. This helped supplement the expenditure of the no-profit Gold Cup.



*A dangerous tackle between Mayd Basker and PSEB defender*

The Sikkim Government provided Rs 3 lakhs for the Rs 7 lakh budget tournament but the SFA always have a rough time trying to make up the deficit. In spite of this, there are teams which demand amazing prices. That is precisely why last year's runners-up ITI Bangalore were discarded as they wanted much more than they had received the previous year. JCT were interested in coming to Gangtok but under a different name, a condition which the organisers did not agree to. Punjab Police came to take another tilt at the title which they had won under a different name in the inaugural meet. They were not the only side from Punjab, as six months prior to the Gold Cup, the Electricity Board team showed their eagerness. It was still not clear the final would be a all-Punjab affair.

While the PSEB proved to be the underdogs, Punjab Police were not expected to win. However, the latter enjoyed their fair share of luck, how else could defending champions Mafatlal lose to them in the double-leg semi in spite of the fact that they had a clear edge?

The fact remained that Mafatlal were the best team on display with

veteran Ranjit Thapa still in his element. Likewise, Manjit Singh of PSEB also gave the crowd their money's worth. Both veterans were adjudged the best players but there were others, who shone, like Sital Singh, Yashpal and Darshan Singh Goga of PSEB, Ravi and Jaspal Singh of Punjab Police and Mafatlal's Keith Swaine and Fidellis Cardus. That the veterans earned this distinction was honour itself.

The capacity Sunday crowd expected both Punjab teams to provide a battle royal but the final proved to be a damp squib with Punjab Police winning 2-0. Performance-wise, the policemen were shabby although Jaspal and Ravi played quite well. One thought that PSEB had lost heart after conceding a goal in the second minute of play through striker Darshan Singh (not to be confused with his PSEB namesake) off a Sukhvinder Singh lob, but it wasn't that way. The PSFB custodian, (yet another) Darshan Singh might have saved it had he exerted himself more promptly. The PSEB side fought back and held territorial sway for nearly ten minutes. It was during this time that policeman

Joginder Singh was shown the yellow card by referee Tarak Sen for questioning the latter's authority.

PSEB could have won the match after their second half display. Besides, it was on the cards that PSEB would not survive the ordeal of playing for three consecutive days in 90-minute matches against the policemen. The SFA requested PSEB not to play in Darjeeling for precisely this reason. But PSEB refused to compromise, played at Darjeeling and proved to the crowd that they still had the necessary stamina. This was evident in the second half as Goga shot wide when he had only the goalkeeper to beat. Manjit also missed when his header was well collected by international Surjit Singh. But the PSEB goalie let the team down when he failed to grasp a Harminder pile-driver, allowing the ball to trickle in. That was enough. A demoralised Manjit never fought back and Punjab Police triumphed.

The gambling fraternity had reserved Mohammedan Sporting as favourites against Punjab State Electricity Board in the second semi, but the Calcutta giants had only themselves to blame. PSFB had to thank evergreen Manjit Singh who steered his team to an overall 5-3 win in both legs.

Mohammedan SC started with a bang when medeo Debashis Mishra tapped the ball inside, from a Majid pass. It was Majid again who, instead of scoring, back passed for Latifuddin to boot home. However, during their forays in the PSEB territory they ruined a couple of chances. The Punjab side soon got a foothold on the match. Mohammedan SC's short-lived sparkle having died, Manjit Singh and Darshan Singh Goga made penetrations with Yashpal covering up brilliantly in the vital midfield.

Without skipper Moidul Islam the defence was handicapped and goalkeeper Pratap Ghosh looked frantic, leaving his charge frequently. Pem Dorji in the defence has a tendency to play ball inside the danger zone instead of resorting to quick clearance. He paid severely for this after the breather when he handled the ball and referee Santi Gupta awarded a penalty which Balbir Singh converted.

This was enough to sap the Calcutta team's confidence and three minutes later the referee disallowed a genuine goal. Manjit equalised soon after from an off-side position. Even the scorer himself looked askance at the linesman but when Bhola Dutta did not raise his flag, Manjit coolly beat Pratap Ghosh.

Mohammedan SC had to struggle to prevent impending disaster. They counter-attacked and Somenath Banerjee's shot was saved on the goal line by Balbir Singh. Then the blow came. Manjit gave a beautiful through pass and a dashing Bhupinder put the team into the lead. Stung



Punjab Police defender intercepts PSEB striker Darshan Singh Goga in the final

by the reverse. Mohammedan S C pounded the rival defence with Jamshed, Uttam Chakraborty and Majid missing.

Reinforced by Moidul in the second leg, the Calcutta side looked capable of meeting the challenge. Moidul's prediction about his side's win was taking shape in the next 90 minutes of play, when Jamshed headed home off a Majid centre. Under pressure, PSEB had to keep their nerve and struck later through Goga from a goalmouth melee. It was partly Pratap Ghosh's fault. Whether the referee blew for offside or not, he just stayed put instead of making an attempt to save the ball.

The refereeing by Bhola Dutta was weak. On two occasions he overlooked penalties and awarded PSEB's second goal by Goga off a Manjit pass which was handled by the scorer Mohammedan S C. He wanted to pull out but good sense prevailed when manager Iqbal Ahmed asked them to continue. Earlier, PSEB manager Joginder Singh also wanted to call his team off due to inept supervision.

After conceding the goal Mohammedan S C ran out of steam, but the greatest blunder was made by Moidul, which added to the bad substitutions. First, the team indulged in hard tackles and Pem Dorji whose task was to bottle Manjit, was not completely successful. But the match-winner was due to a tactical blunder by the captain when he played as medio, bringing Dorji into the defence after the breather.

The worst offenders were Pratap Ghosh, Anudeb Das and Debashis Mishra. Mani should have been brought in place of Somenath much earlier and Satyajit Mitra was kept on the sidelines when his services were sorely needed. Three who shone in the PSEB team were Manjit, Yashpal and Sital Singh. The last two have great potential and are very hard working. As for Moidul Islam, he seemed to have lost much of his credibility.

**H**olders Mafatlal were edged out in the first semi by the tough Punjab Police team. This victory came on the basis of a single goal scored in the first meeting. In fact, the reigning champions from Bombay did everything but score. In both games, the grand old warhorse Ranjit Thapa, Keith Swaine and Fidellis Cardus played the lead roles successfully. Ranjit Thapa's form even at this age will put many an Asiad probable in the shade and his presence also forced coach Dharam Singh to change the strategy of the police team. Even then, in the first leg the veteran found an opening through the rugged but reliable police defence, only to see the ball miss the second bar. While Keith Swaine distributed the ball well, Ranjit spearheaded the attack and in the



Punjab Police goalie Surjit Singh collects the ball in their first-leg semi against Mafatlal

second leg they both did a unique job in the vital midfield.

However, Punjab Police came back into the game after 25 minutes in the first leg when striker Jagdev Singh beat Aleem Khan and shot straight at goalkeeper Jaikar Singh. Three minutes later a Darshan Singh left volley saw the same goalkeeper make a splendid dive. But Mafatlal retaliated and came close to scoring through Cardus who gave the defenders a lot of trouble. It was in one of the counter-attacks that Punjab Police obtained the all-important goal when right winger Harminder's angular shot beat the goalkeeper.

Mafatlal coach Amal Bahadur was unhappy about the goal. "Both Harminder and Darshan were offside when the ball was chipped. They came in and went to receive the ball, which however, went to Harminder who cut in for an angular shot. The goalkeeper thought the ball would go out but when Harminder shot it was too late for the keeper to move out to cover the angle."

Shocked but determined, Mafatlal pounded the rival defence and the policemen began to show frayed tempers. Soon after, Jaspal Singh was booked by referee Sumanta Ghosh for threatening Cardus. Ghosh should have acted more sternly with the police team as they began to argue with him whenever a decision went against them. At least three more should have been shown the yellow card.

The second semi-final was handled by Tarak Sen, with whom no one dared argue despite the fact that the policemen were under pressure as they had to hold on to the slender lead. The Mafatlal coach exactly knew how to plot a success — and nearly succeeded. The team was told to attack from the start but the policemen had one thing in mind to play defensively. Mafatlal's last hope died when Prian Chatterjee, from point blank range, sent a feeble shot straight into the hands of Surjit Singh after Cardus weaved in to give him a beautiful pass. Added to this



misery two more chances were wasted by Chatterjee and Ratan Thapa. Mafatlal came close to scoring twice after the breather but Surjit Singh proved his mettle as a custodian

**S**INCE Mohammedan SC went straight into the semi-finals, the remaining three quarter-finals centred around three Bombay outfits and two Punjab teams. The odd side out were the underdogs Gorkha Brigade Air India, the first of the three Bombay teams, was eliminated by the Punjab Police, when striker Darshan Singh netted twice. The victory, however, does not indicate that the army men were in any way inferior. In fact, in a fast-paced game the Air India players lacked punch while the opponents capitalised on the two best chances that came their way. Had striker Bimal Ghosh been able to avail the open chance before Punjab Police struck, the fate of the match might have gone the other way.

Play was normally centred in mid-field but a sudden spurt by Darshan Singh midway through the first half saw a dumb-founded custodian Vijay Swamy unable to anticipate the ball which swerved into the goal.

The slender lead made the Air India boys more aggressive and after

half time they had a slight edge over their rivals Bimal Ghosh, Raju and Franco wasted three good opportunities because of erratic shooting. It was a pity that all the hard labour put up by medios Santosh D'Souza and Fernandez went in vain. The most outstanding player in the Air India side was K. L. Sahl, who was seen moving up and down just to obtain the equaliser which never came.

**I**n the second quarters, defending champions Mafatlal struck twice through Fidelis Cardus to earn a semi berth. Once again, the cynosure of all eyes was Ranjit Thapa, whose lethal shots and ball distribution earned the applause of the spectators. Coach Amar Bahadur Gurung's formula worked well against the tough army men. Knowing fully well what the Gorkhas were capable of Mafatlal played attacking football from the word go. This paid rich dividends. Two goals in quick succession through Cardus had an adverse effect on the Gorkhas. Said the coach "Cardus, who made a comeback, after a year's layoff was played as a striker instead of his usual left-wing position just to help the forwards penetrate the defence. This worked as he was able to net both the goals."

The Gangtok crowd has a special

affinity for the Gorkhas and Mafatlal literally had to play against the crowd. This backing helped the army men to some extent as they came close to scoring through Limbo. Mafatlal were never at ease until the final whistle and had they conceded a goal the story might have been different. Even Amar Bahadur agreed that the Gorkhas came very close on their heels: "I really appreciated the way they fought back. Even after trailing by two goals they missed a couple of sitters. Aleem Khan, Tejpal, Hanumantha, Murali Shergar, Keith Swain and Ranjit Thapa performed well."

**H**arwood League champions Mahindra and Mahindra, playing outside Bombay after nearly five years took a jolt from a side which had hitherto been rather uncomfortable. Punjab State Electricity Board edged Mahindras 3-2 in the tie-breaker after 1-1 draw in a full 90 minute match which yielded no result after extra-time. Although the Bombay outfit lost, they displayed better coordination but the forwards lacked finish. This was especially true of striker Thomas Barreto, who could have taken a couple of shots at goal since the PSEB goalkeeper looked suspect. Young Barreto requires more big match experience, but he did make amends when he drove home the equaliser following a flag-kick melee five minutes from full time.

The encounter was well contested but it never rose to great heights. Initially, PSEB had a slight edge and the livewire of the team was the aging international Manjit Singh. Manjit was not in his element and the way he was bottled by wingback Simon Anthony was evident. After left flankman Gurmeet Singh wasted a close chance, Manjit seized the rebound and sent the ball into the net.

Mahindras went all out in the last 15 minutes and one ploy paid off for the Bombay champions when the offside trap caught Gurmeet Singh, Darshan Singh Goga and Bhupinder Singh on the wrong foot several times. The Punjab side obtained their last chance to win when Gurmeet, availing a forward pass, moved in desperately. Though he had only the custodian to beat, he shot wide off the mark.

Extra-time once again proved useless. However, there was a moment of anxiety for Mahindras when their best defender Anthony sustained an injury and had to be carried off the field. In spite of this setback, Mahindras maintained pressure but they had to ultimately succumb to the tie-breaker. "I am not at all dissatisfied with the team's performance despite the fact that we are not accustomed to this sort of surface, and which the Punjab players have some experience, concluded the Mahindra coach.



Mahindra custodian Andrew Pereira leaps to collect the ball in the quarter-final match against PSEB





## SPORT QUOTE

[illegible]



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# Regional round-up

## CALCUTTA

### Tennis at the South Club

**T**HE Calcutta Hard Court Tennis Tournament is one of the oldest of its kind played in the city. Over the years, and this year was no exception, the tournament has been played on the superb courts of the Calcutta South Club. There were a spate of young entries this year, something which augurs well for the future of the game in this city.

Jaikumar Royappa was also supposed to play here but withdrew at the last moment. Nevertheless, there were still quite a few good top players who took part. Enrico Piperno, the well built chocolate haired player from Calcutta, met his coach the veteran Akhtar Ali in the final of the men's singles. The latter at 45 now hardly ever plays competitive tennis and it is praiseworthy that he reached the final. However, Piperno was too fit and fast for Akhtar and won easily conceding only one game in each set. The winner of the men's singles collected Rs 2,500 while Ali pulled in Rs 1,500.

During the course of the match, Akhtar Ali strained a thigh muscle. Because of this he and his partner Piperno had to concede a walk-over to the ex Davis Cup pair of Piemjit Lal and Jaideep Mukherjee. This was a tournament young Malini Mukherjee, (daughter of Jaideep)

would not forget in a hurry. Besides winning the under-14 and under-18 girls' titles she also entered the final of the ladies singles where she went down to S Bhandari. Pratip Chowbey won the Boys under-18 title, Ram Kumar the Boys under 16 while up and coming Zeeshan Ali easily annexed the under-14 crown.

DEREK O BRIEN

### Lee wins State T.T.

**M**ORE than 5,000 spectators assembled at the temporary shamiana erected at Baghajatin Park, Siliguri for the finals of the 48th State Table Tennis Championships, played under the supervision of Siliguri District Table Tennis Association.

The State Table Tennis Championships were earlier held in Siliguri in 1970 and 1976 and the Siliguri District Table Tennis Association has therefore distinguished itself to be the first of the District Associations to host the championships for the third time.

The temporary pandal had a wooden floor measuring approximately 7,400 sq ft—rather uncommon at the district level—which was specially laid to accommodate eight tables for the games. The lighting arrangements and surface of the floor could have been better. Ultimately, because of this the men's singles matches were suspended for a day. But whatever be the case, efforts made by the organisers with

limitations at the district levels to provide near ideal playing conditions deserve special mention.

In this year's championships, as expected, the battle for the honours for the team championship titles was confined to Siliguri and Hooghly. Siliguri on home ground practically swept the board winning the Triple Crown. They annexed the Men's, Boy's and Sub-Junior team championships. The dominance of Siliguri is a true reflection of the quality of players they have. In the men's team championships, left-hander Sanjay Dey who did not lose a single game was Siliguri's mainstay.

In the women's team championships, Hooghly, who have practically made it a monopoly affair, won the title for the ninth time. The Dey sisters Deepika Dey and Tusliarkana Dey (now Dutta) were responsible for Hooghly's victory. While most of the titles were shared between Hooghly and Siliguri, the emergence of Maibhum—rather backward in the field of table tennis—as runners-up in the Sub-Junior Team Championships was the only ray of hope.

Most of the players in the individual events justified their seedings except in the men's singles where stalwarts like Michal Mullic (2nd seed), Deepak Halder (5th seed), Sanjay Som (4th seed), Narchhu Mukherjee and Dilip Sinha failed to qualify for the quarter final league. Some of the players blamed the adverse playing conditions. This is not tenable as opponents were also exposed to similar conditions.

The final was a colourless and drab affair in which Thomas Lee dominated to beat Susanta Bakshi in straight sets. In the women's singles final too, Indu Puri, five time national champion, did not have to exert herself to beat Karabi Ghosh, last year's title holder also in straight games.

GOPINATH GHOSH

### Football fives

**T**HERE is never a dull moment for football in this city. The Calcutta League and the IFA Shield are both long since over and the spotlight then shifted to the Calcutta Cricket and Football ground. Here under floodlights the annual Mercantile 5 a-side tournament was played. Thirty-three teams from different commercial firms took part exercising every inch of their talent to bring back laurels for their respective companies.

Top seeded Carritt Moran had an easy draw to enter the final, which they did. The other half was not as easy and the quarter-final match

Sri Lanka's Duleep Mendis receiving the Thums Up Man of the Series Trophy from Prakash Chauhan of Parle (Exports) Pvt Ltd



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between TM and MC and Macneill and Magor was a cliff-hanger, and the latter finally won by the odd goal in nine

Carritt Moran played ultra defensive football in the final. This could still not prevent the pint-sized Bruce Gomes of MMC from scoring a gem of a goal in the closing stages. Gomes was awarded the best player of the tournament and Babul McLeod earned the distinction of being the highest scorer.

Just a word about the organisation of the tournament. Something must be done to prevent teams from deliberately losing matches in the initial stages knowing that they have no chance of doing well in the tournament proper. As a result they are bent on entering the Loser's Plate.

A unique event which is held during this tournament is the 'Superstar Contest'. Individual players have to kick the ball between hoops, dribble between flags, kick the farthest and perform other nuances of the game. Points are tallied at the end of it all, and finally the 'super star' is chosen. This year's 'star' was the ever-smiling McLeod who proved that he is as talented on the football field as he is playing scrum half in a 'rugger' pack.

## Barefooted footballers

RECENTLY a 26 member football team from Bangladesh comprising juniors arrived here to participate in some exhibition matches. The team is from Narayangunge and they will play a number of exhibition matches in the city.

This sporting cultural exchange is a good sign and many more such visits should be undertaken. In their first match Bangladesh juniors took on an IFA junior team. The boys from Bangladesh thrilled the crowd with their determination and courage. They won the hearts of the 30,000 spectators who had turned up to witness the match even though the youngsters lost by the odd goal in three. Sarkar put the IFA juniors ahead with a deft placement and a few minutes later Jitendra Das scored his side's second goal. The visiting juniors played inspired football in the second half and were rewarded for their efforts when Zakeer Hussain scored for them a few minutes before the close. The youngsters from Bangladesh only lost the match, victory was theirs from all other angles.

DEREK O'BRIEN

## MADRAS

### Kerala win Varsity basketball

THE South Zone inter-university women's basketball championship came to a conclusion on

October 8. Out of the 30 original entries, 24 took part. The initial rounds saw many one-sided encounters even the standard was below average. About the only match which was really exciting was the one between Baroda and Jabalpur which was won by the latter 41-40.

One thought that there would be close finishes and basketball of a higher standard when it came to the four-team round robin league, contested by last year's champions Calicut, runners-up Kerala, Poona and Gujarat. But we were to be badly disillusioned. About the only match among the six that rose to some heights was the one between Calicut and Poona which was won by the former after a tough fight 60-51. The fact that the winner of this match would end up in second position and qualify for the All India Championship added spice to the flavour of the contest.

Kerala in the meantime had finished the league with an all win record and emerged champions. They virtually made sure of this fact when they got the better of Calicut 74-40 in the first match. They then proceeded to mow down Poona 70-36 and finally demolished weak Gujarat 75-22. Calicut besides their loss to Kerala and their victory over Poona defeated Gujarat 67-26 to assure themselves of the runner-spot. Poona finished third with a 70-58 victory over Gujarat.

Kerala and Calicut now join the winner and runner-up of North Zone in the All India Championship. The four teams will contest on a league basis.

## Belated end

SUPER league champions Universal Football Club won the Jatroprole Cup football tournament on defeating Integral Coach Factory 4-2 via the tie-breaker. October is not generally the month for football and the teams had actually played the final about three weeks earlier. That match ended goalless and then since ICF were busy, the long postponement. The two teams dished out mediocre stuff and there was never any doubt that this match too would end goalless. So it did and Universal prevailed in the tie-breaker to claim another trophy.

## Crazy cricket.

CRICKET league matches in Madras are normally played over one innings for a day, comprising 6 1/2 hours of playing time. But a match here ended in just one hour. Playing in the Fourth Division, Globe Cricket Club were dismissed for 15. Yes 15 with medium pacer B. Venkatraman taking five wickets for six runs. The opponents Central United Club hit up 18 for one for a nine-wicket victory.

PRATAP RAMCHAND

## CHANDIGARH

### Haryana may excel

WITH Kapil Dev, Ashok Malhotra and Ravinder Chadha as their major batting strength and Kapil, Rajinder Goel, and Sarkar Talwar as the bowling battery, ably assisted, possibly, by up and coming Chetan Sharma in the two departments Haryana would make a strong bid for reaching the knock out stage after a gap of one year in the national Ranji Trophy tournament. After having tied with Punjab last year, Haryana failed because of a low average to join Delhi as the qualifiers. This year Haryana are to be skippered by Kapil Dev.

Haryana's Ranji team should remain almost the same of that of last year. The sixteen to attend the combined one week coaching camp under the senior NIS coach D. P. Azad who will be assisted by Manjit Singh are: Kapil Dev, Ravinder Chadha, Deepak Sharma, Ravi Mishra, Ashok Malhotra, Amar Kumar, Rajinder Goel, Sarkar Talwar, Rakesh, Jolly Premchand, Salim Ahmed, Narinderpal Singh, Ashwin Kumar, Chatturbhuj Sharma, Ashok Thakur and Chetan Sharma. Haryana begin their campaign to enter the knock out stage with a match against lowly placed Jammu and Kashmir at Srinagar. As can be seen from the players selected for the camp, the team is fairly strong in all the three departments but it would have been an asset had Yograj Singh who has shown his class in the just concluded Bhagsingh Memorial Cricket Tournament also been included. Since Yograj, following his non selection during the last two seasons, has shifted to Punjab he is likely to be seen in action for that State.

SATISH KUMAR

## DELHI

### Volleyball treat

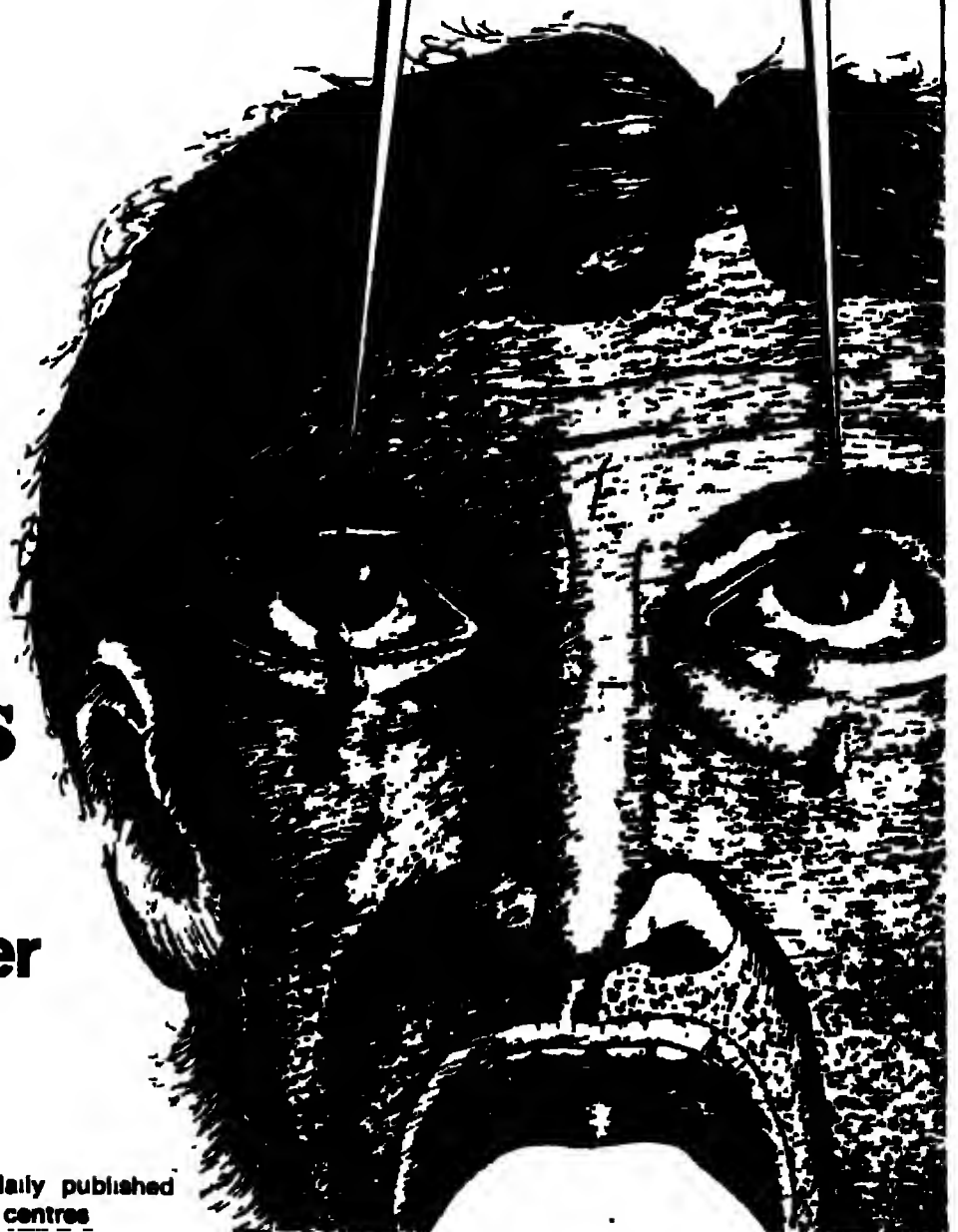
WITH the Automobilist team of Leningrad making a whirlwind tour, the volleyball has been in the news. Which is as it should be. However, the results of the matches did not show the Indian probabilities for the Asian Games in good light. They lost in straight games at 10-15, 14-16, 10-15 in spite of visible improvement in technique brought about by the coaching of Kurt Radde of East Germany. The Soviet team had come to the capital after winning "Tests" at Hyderabad and Ludhiana and losing the one at Vijayawada.

Technique and staying power alone are not sufficient to take a team to the top. Equally important is the attribute called the "killer in-

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stinct." But then this instinct is lacking not only in our volleyball players alone. In fact, the entire Indian sport suffers from a shortage of this instinct which is not very easy to define.

The Indian team got off to a good start to the great delight of a goodly crowd at the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium. They led 8-4, but were unable to sustain the good work. In the second game, our players staged a stirring rally to win 10 points and draw level at 14.

But that was about all. They fought back again in the third game after allowing the Soviet team to take an early lead. But the rally came too late. Outstanding for the Indians were skipper Sridharan, Chacko and Johnson Jacob.

At Ludhiana the previous afternoon, the Leningrad team, which includes Olympic star Efimov, a decorated spiker, had thrilled a 10,000 crowd at the Punjab Agriculture University court with a 15-7, 15-6, 15-11 victory. The crowd there and the organisers, who had spent a huge sum of money in organising the fixture, were disappointed that the Indian team was not present in full strength. It is reported that many a senior player had refused to travel to Ludhiana and back because of the strain of the 10-hour road journey. As for the Soviet team, they were extended the facility of an air hop from Delhi to Ludhiana and back.

In the circumstances, the match was too one-sided to enthuse about

The outplayed Indians put up a semblance of a fight in the third game when only one point separated the two teams at 10-11. But the superior Russians then turned on the heat again at this stage to run out easy winners.

A CORRESPONDENT

## BANGALORE

### Gang of five

ON 7 July, last year, five athletes who were undergoing a training session at the NIS, Bangalore, went to a liquor shop in search of some rum. After procuring the rum, they spotted something more exciting in the form of two young ladies, whom they took for prostitutes. While one scuttled away in fright, the other unfortunate woman, was forcibly carried to the athletes' dormitory, and after firmly securing the lock, was gang raped. The screams of the woman attracted the watchman.

After more than a year, on October 4, to be precise, the athletes were sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment for "raping a girl and keeping her in wrongful confinement." They were later released on self recognisance bond pending their appeal. Principal City Civil and Sessions Judge K. B. Navadgi, also found them guilty of wrongful confinement and sentenced them to six months RI

on this charge. The two sentences will run concurrently.

The offence is a serious one and so one really wonders about the future career of the athletes. A. C. P. Marappa, who had supervised the investigation, leaves it to the sports authorities, to decide whether to put a complete end to their sporting activities, until their appeal to the High Court is heard, as to view their crime leniently.

Out of the five, two, Pyara Singh and Ranjit Singh, have been selected for the advanced training camp at Delhi and have left the city to attend it. Pyara Singh represented India in the Seoul marathon event in 1981 and Ranjit Singh had won a silver medal for the 20 km walk in the Asian Track and Field Meet in Tokyo, the same year. The other three accused are Kashmira Singh, a decathlete from the Services, Gurudaval Singh, last year's All-India Police champion in the 400 metres hurdles and Joginder winner of the javelin throw event in the All India Police event.

The athletes' irregular nocturnal activities, is nothing new. They claim to be regular patrons of prostitutes and even this time they claim that the woman, by the name of Nagarathna, came willingly to their dormitory. While the 35-year old woman is said to be of 'questionable character', the fact remains that even a prostitute cannot be forced into bed. The medical reports and the eye witnesses' reports prove that it was a definite case of rape. The athletes have also allegedly tried to bribe the woman, to the extent of Rs 5,000 in an attempt to get her to withdraw the case. But, the very fact that the woman refused and even went to the police and asked for protection, showed that this was a harmed woman demanding appropriate action against the miscreants.

While the future of the athletes is, right now, bleak and uncertain, one note of worry is the disclosure by the accused that most of the athletes indulge in regular visits to brothels.

### IMA sets example

THE Karnataka branch of the Indian Medical Association has taken up a project to construct a special ward for sportsmen and sports women. The foundation stone was laid by Karnataka's Finance Minister M. Veerappa Moily at the Victoria Hospital. The ward will be known as the IMA—Sports Ward and will have a special ward of five beds set aside for ailing sportsmen. Research in the field of sports medicine is also planned to be conducted. Dr V. Parameshwara, President, Karnataka Branch, IMA said that the project was the only one of its kind in Karnataka.

SHANTI MOHANRANGAM

An exhibition volleyball match between India and the USSR played at the Indraprastha Stadium, Delhi.



## When legs weren't all padding

"When their legs weren't all padding, Nor their arms all wadding. And they didn't mind a few stingers And they never wore India-rubber fingers"—Old song

Only after the initiation of length bowling and "the bowling revolution of 1827", there were some perilous assaults and blows on batsmen. According to historians, John Ring was among the early batsmen sustaining serious injury on his nose. The culprit was none other than his own brother, George.

As the bowling styles underwent many changes—from under-arm to round-arm and then over-arm—it became necessary to wear protective gear.

It is said that the originators of pads (leg guards) at first met with insults. Robert Robinson of Farnham, known as Long Bob, was said to be the inventor of pads. Although the date of his experiment cannot be ascertained, the historian G. D. Martineau says: "His cricketing career was from 1792 to 1819 and the pads he used were of the crudest kind being no more than pieces of board fastened anklewise to his legs. The ball struck them with such a resounding smack that there were roars of laughter every time it occurred and the general mirth was too much for Long Bob who gave up his armour."

There are some other historians, who give credit for inventing pads to H. Daubeney in 1836. There are some others, who claim that Thomas Nixon, the Nottingham slow bowler, was the inventor of pads in 1841 when "pads and gloves became common and were adopted by all the best men at Lord's."

Soon length bowling gained tremendous momentum. The bowlers, with fairly good run-ups, began to hasten through the pitches, which were then unprepared. In fact, wickets were then devilish and it would have been nightmarish for present-day batsmen to play. Following the discovery of over-arm pace bowling, it became imperative to devise protection for their hands. Padded finger-stalls were said to be a first step towards batting gloves.

Believe it or not, wicket-keepers were obliged to thrust pieces of meat or beef or even flour in their palms to prevent from sustaining bruises and injuries before the wicket-keeping gloves were invented. Neville Cardus relates how Bill Worsley once 'kept' to Walter Brearley in primitive gloves, which had afterwards to be cut away from his wounded hands with scissors.

The historian Martineau says: "As early as 1861 there was mention of an 'abdominal protector', but whether it resembled the present belt, 'box' or 'gras-

shopper' is not revealed. This necessary guard for protecting the vital parts has come into general use of late."

Once one of the village batsmen amused the spectators by emerging out of the pavilion with the abdominal guard worn outside the trousers. The historian says that, "learning his mistake from the peals of laughter which greeted him, he unbuckled it in disgust, flung it into the pavilion and strode wrathfully to the wicket, where the first ball he received came perilously near to emasculating him."

Following persistent fast bowling, initiated by the com-

bination of Larwood-Jardine to keep Sir Donald Bradman under check and then practised by other fast bowlers from the West Indies, Australia and England, the batsmen were left with no alternative except to wear helmets to prevent head injuries. Once, before the initiation of the helmet, India's opening batsman, Nari Contractor, sustained a head injury from a Griffith delivery in West Indies and fought a grim battle before surviving. Fielders positioning themselves at virtually 'suicidal' points also use helmets these days. It has become a must when facing bowling and fielding at close in positions.

A batsman is wil-

fully obstructed by a fielder, while running between the wickets. What action will you take (1) if the batsman is run out in the process and (2) will you permit the run to be counted?

A (1) The batsman cannot be given out and (2) run in progress will count.

Q. The bowler delivers a ball, which comes to rest in front of the striker. What action will you take (1) One of the fielders picks up the ball and breaks the wicket when the striker is advancing to hit the ball and (2) after the first unsuccessful attempt to hit the ball, the striker tries to hit again.

A (1) The batsman is not out and the umpire will keep the ball where it was lying giving an opportunity to the striker to hit the ball. (2) After the first unsuccessful attempt of the striker, the umpire should signal and call 'dead ball'. The striker cannot be allowed to hit the ball twice. He cannot be out 'hitting the ball twice', since his first attempt at hitting the ball was unsuccessful.

Q: The umpire calls 'over'. One of the batsmen, without the consent of the fielding side, picks up the ball and throws it to one of the fielders. Can an appeal against the batsman sustain?

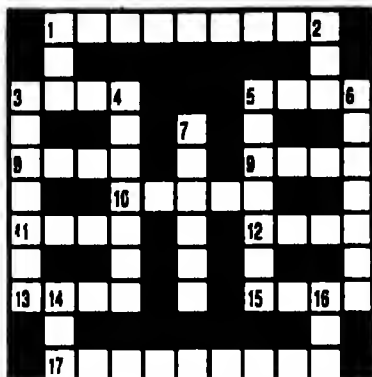
A: The batsman cannot be declared out 'handling the ball' because the ball had become dead the moment the umpires called 'over'.



# Crossword

IMUDAR

169



## ACROSS

- 1 Minister in charge of sport takes a musical turn towards the end (4, 5)
- 3 'Cricket Rebel' who was involved in many controversies (4)
- 5 A masculine ruler for a former Wimbledon women's champion (4)
- 8 American miler who ran the mile under four minutes when he was only 17 (4)
- 9 Yachting equipment (4)
- 10 They figured in a World Cup Soccer final and also a World final in hockey (5)
- 11 West Indian batsman, also called this, affectionately (4)
- 12 Indian cricket writer, the late Rakhal Bhattacharya wrote under this pseudonym (4)
- 13 Welsh professional golfer who won every British golf title except the Open (4)
- 15 The man who fought Muhammad Ali in Munich (4)
- Brothers who have caused a flutter in badminton circles with their spin serves (3, 6)

## DOWN

- 1 This Travers who was a playwright and a cricket enthusiast (3)
- 2 The Jian who is a force to contend with in the world of badminton (3)
- 3 Young female tennis player who ends in a geographical landmark (7)
- 4 They made their entry in Test cricket in 1928 (1, 6)
- 5 Former hockey international who was also the Bengal number one in badminton (6, 1)
- 6 This Gilks who was a power in the women's section of the badminton world (7)
- 7 What you pass in a relay race (5)
- 14 Sportsman need to — well to keep themselves fit (3)
- 16 The National Institute of Sports (1, 1)

Excellent 20—18, Good 17—15, Fair 14—13.

# Question box

I Sudhir Vaidya

R Reddy Bangalore

Q Please give me the names of the Indian cricket team that toured Pakistan in 1960-61 under Lala Amarnath. Was Farooq Engineer a member of this team? please also give the States for whom these players played in the Ranji Trophy championship

A Indian team never went to Pakistan in 1960-61. In fact Pakistan led by Fazal Mahmood toured India in for a five-Test series in India then

Chinnoy Roy, Calcutta

Q What are the Test records of Graeme Pollock of South Africa and Hedley Verity of England?

A Graeme Pollock has scored 2256 runs in 41 innings (four times unbeaten) out of 23 Tests at the average of 60.97 with the help of seven centuries and eleven half centuries. 274 being his highest score. Hedley Verity of England appeared in 40 Tests, captured 144 wickets at the average of 24.37 with five times five or more wickets in an innings and twice with ten or more in a match. Eight for 43 was his best bowling performance.

Aniruddha Gupta Tinsukia

Q Who is the oldest living cricketer in India and what is his Test record?

A C Ramaswamy of Tamil Nadu is the oldest living Test cricketer from India today i.e. as at 16 August 1982 with his age being 86 years and 60 days. He played in two Tests for India and made 170 runs averaging 56.66 in four innings.

S R Shetty Bombay

Q Please let me know whether our ex-captain M. A. K. Pataudi made a come back after announcing his retirement. If yes, against whom when and where?

A No, he did not make a come back. Pinaki Das, Cuttack

Q Which team was the champion in the Wills Trophy in 1981-82?

A Bombay

Hameed and Kabir, Kurseong

Q What is the name of the batsman who has scored sixes off each ball in an over?

## SOLUTION 168

C M J R M P A R

O M

D S

O D

R I A O L E E Y  
U E

A Sir Garfield Sobers for Nottinghamshire off M. A. Nash of Glamorgan at Swansea in 1968 in the County cricket championship of England.

Anshuman Ajit Sanjaya, Bangalore

Q Has Vishwanath ever captured a wicket in Tests? If so please give details

A Yes Vishwanath had Higgs of Australia caught by Dilip Vengsarkar behind the wicket off his bowling in the fourth Test at Delhi in 1979-80 in the second innings.

Q What is the best bowling by D R Doshi?

A Six for 102 in the second Test against England at Manchester in 1982.

K Manjunath, Chanarayana

Q Who scored the most centuries in the Ranji Trophy championship? How many runs did he score and what was his highest score in the tourney?

A Vijay Hazare has made the highest aggregate of 6,312 runs in 71 Ranji Trophy matches with the highest number of 22 centuries. 316 not out being his highest mark in the championship.

Continued on Page 42

# Quiz

I Ranjit Ghose

## QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks

- 1 While in American football there are — men per team in Canada the corresponding figure is —
- 2 In relay races runners must exchange batons in the — zone
- 3 To cut down the wind resistance the speed skater keeps his — behind his — and leans forward
- 4 The — ball travels fastest it can reach a fantastic — km per hour
- 5 The maximum speed of a football is — per hour
- 6 In the Bangkok Asiad 1978 — topped the medal standings with — golds, 64 silvers and 51 bronzes
- 7 — took — of the 29 swimming events in the 1978 Asiad
- 8 — ranked second in the Bangkok Asiad (1978) with 50 golds, — silvers and 51 bronzes
- 9 Chen Xiaoxia the famous female — from China has twice won world honour
- 10 A dive is judged not only by the grace and consistency of its execution but also by the degree of — involved

## ANSWERS

- 1 11 12
- 2 2 lakeover
- 3 3 arms back
- 4 4 golf 500
- 5 5 127 km
- 6 6 Japan 74
- 7 7 Japan 25
- 8 8 China 60
- 9 9 diver
- 10 10 difficulty

**Saktipada Deb, Hailakandi**

**Q** What is the price of the Wisden's Cricketers Almanack and who are their publishers?

**A** The price of *Wisden* goes on increasing every year as the volume becomes thicker every year. It is published by John Wisden and Co Ltd London.

**Q** Is Mr A W Kanmadikar Honorary Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India a Test player? If so what is his Test record?

**A** No. He is not a Test cricketer, not even a first-class cricketer.

**Q** What is D C S Compton's full name?

**A** Denis Charles Scott Compton

**Bapi Chatterjee, Hirapur**

**Q** Give me Australia's scorecard when they were dismissed for 83 by India

A J Dyson 3, G M Wood 10, G S Chappell 0, K J Hughes 16, B Yardley 7, A R Border 9, K D Walters 18 not out, R W Marsh 3, D K Lillee 4, L Pascoe 6, J D Higgs, 0. Extras 7, making a total of 84

**Ajay Kumar Rathi, Hazaribagh**

**Q** When, where and against whom did Gavaskar and Wadekar made their Test debuts?

**A** Gavaskar made his Test debut in the second Test against West Indies at Port-of-Spain in 1970-71 and Wadekar appeared on the Test scene in the first Test against the West Indies at Bombay in 1966-67

**Chandra Mauli Swar Nayak, Berhampur**

**Q** What are the dates of birth of Kapil Dev and Ian Botham?

**A** Kapil Dev was born on 6 January,

1959 and Ian Botham on 24 November, 1955

**A S. Narayanan, Bhilai**

**Q** When, where and against which team did Kapil Dev hit his first Test hundred?

**A** In the fifth Test against the West Indies at Delhi in 1978-79, when he made 126 not out

**Vijay Ghai, Delhi**

**Q** What is the highest score by Kapil Dev in first-class cricket?

**A** He scored 193 for Haryana against Punjab at Chandigarh in 1979-80 in Ranji Trophy

**Subrata, Maniani**

**Q** When, where, and against whom did Imran Khan play his first Test?

**A** In the first Test against England at Birmingham in 1971

## Bridge

Boris Schapiro

Scientific bidding, although it certainly has its place in the bridge world, has a lot for which it must answer. A (scientific) colleague told me the following tale of a hand from a modestly-staked rubber bridge game. He dealt as South at love all with ♠ K Q 10, ♥ 6 4 2, ♦ A Q 9 6 3, ♣ Q 5 and, playing a weak no-trump, decided to open 1 NT. Not my nap selection, but not lunatic. West overcalled with two-hearts and his partner bid three-hearts. Difficult! 3 NT without a guard in hearts might prove silly, four-diamonds would go past 3 NT. Anyhow, my scientific friend bid three-spades, arguing that even if the best defence was to force dummy, the defence against four-spades might not be obvious. North raised to four-spades and all passed. North observed, "I hope you don't mind playing in a Moysesian fit" before he displayed dummy.

This was the full outing.

♠ A 3 2			
♥ A 3			
♦ K 10 7 4			
♣ K 8 7 3			
♠ 9 7 6			♠ J 8 5 4
♥ K Q 10 9 8			♥ J 7 5
♦ 8			♦ J 5 2
♣ J 9 6 2			♣ A 10 4
	♠ K Q 10		
	♥ 6 4 2		
	♦ A Q 9 6 3		
	♣ Q 5		

About the only thing that made sense about North's activities (why not a simple 3 NT and nine tricks?) was his comment about a Moysesian fit. Named after a famous American writer, this suggests playing with only a seven card trump suit divided 4-3. This was a super Moysesian fit!

The play was not so silly. South won the diamond lead in hand with the Ace and followed with a club to the King and Ace. Not unreasonably East failed to diagnose his partner's lead and returned ♥ 5 to the 6, 8 and 3. Perhaps less reasonably West played back a heart and now declarer was in charge. He won with dummy's Ace, came to hand with ♠ K and ruffed his last heart with ♠ A. Then he followed with a successful finesse of

♠ 10

Next came ♠ Q and a stream of winning diamonds to leave East helpless. As soon as he ruffed with the thirteenth trump, declarer's hand was high.

In a bizarre contract, declarer's timing was impeccable. The defenders made mistakes twice, but otherwise there would have been no story.

Last week's quiz. At love all as South you held ♠ A J 3 2, ♥ A K J 10, ♦ K 9 3, ♣ 4 2. West dealt and opened one-spade which was followed by two passes. Not an easy decision – the hand is altogether too good for a protective 1 NT and not good enough for an immediate 2 NT. I think that I would double, planning to bid no-trumps unless partner manages to find a bid in hearts.

This week's quiz. With the hand above, you do decide to double. West now bids two-spades and this is followed by two passes to leave you with a new problem. In spite of partner's silence, you still have values in reserve – is it worth your while making another call?

## Chess

Peter Clarke

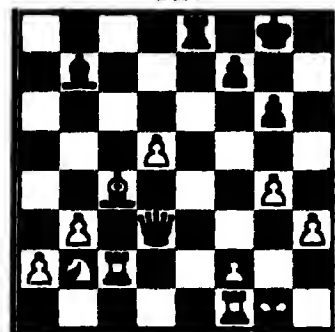
It looked like a mistake when Oxford University Press listed two good-move guides among its chess books, but it was not. Bent Larsen's *Good Move Guide* has now been followed by Ray Keene's *Good Move Guide* (also in paperback and at £4.95). Raymond Keene and his co-author Andrew Whiteley have used a totally different approach from that of the Danish grandmaster, selecting 70 master games (ranging chronologically from Saint Amant–Staunton, 21st Game, Paris, 1843, to Korchnoi–Sax, London, 1980) and confining their comments to one key moment in the struggle. This method has the merit of helping the reader both to get a feeling for the historical development of competitive chess and to go straight to the heart of the matter. The following classic illustrates Alekhine's skill in building up an attack seemingly out of nothing. White: Alexander Alekhine; Black: Samuel Lasker. Q G D, Orthodox Defence (Zurich, 1934)

1 P–B4, P–B4; 2 P–B4, P–B3  
3 R–B3, R–B3; 4 R–B3, R–B3

5 R–B5, R–B2; 6 P–B3, R–B  
7 R–B1, P–B2; 8 R–B3, P–P  
9 R–B2, R–B4; 10 R–B3, R–B4  
11 R–B4, R–B3; 12 R–B3, P–B4  
13 R–B3, P–B1; 14 R–B5, R–B1  
15 R–B3, P–B4; 16 R–B3, R–B3  
17 R–B3, R–B3

According to Alekhine, the right move, sufficient for equality, was 17 P–K03. The Queen move leaves Black temporarily vulnerable in the centre, and the World Champion pounces upon this. He manoeuvres his Queen forcefully into a position where it threatens the black King.

18 R–B5, R–B3; 19 R–B3, P–B3  
20 R–B3, P–B3; 21 R–B3, P–B3  
22 R–B3, P–B3; 23 P–B4, R–B1; 24 R–B3, P–B3  
Also inadequate was 24 P–K03, 25 R–B5ch, K–R2, 26 R–B3, P–B3  
27 R–B3, K–B1; 28 R–B3, P–B3  
Taking the Queen permits White to swing his Rook along the third rank for a brilliant mate – 1841. Solution next week.



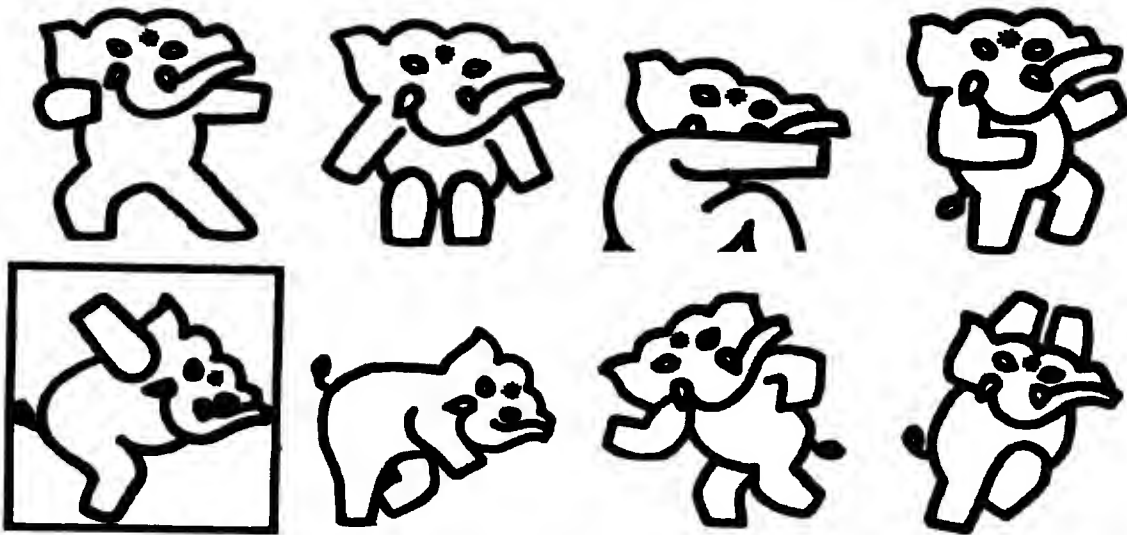
Black to play. How did the game finish? Grade 4 (hard)

to 1840 (Charles–Klein, 1816). (4r1b1/1p2b1/p2p2p2/2P2P1/P2P1P1/2B1 – Black to play.) The former British Champion chose the simplifying combination 34 Q–R7ch; 35 R–B3, R–B3; 36 R–B1, R–B3; 37 K–R, R–B3; 38 K–K2, R–Q, and after 39 K–Q2, R–R; 40 K–B1, K–B2, 41 K–K1, K–K3, 42 K–R, K–B4 White resigned.  
Problem No 1287, Solution next week.  
J. Hunsing (First Prize, Die Schwalbe, 1954)  
(2b2b3p2p2/2p2p2/2p2p2/2P2P1/2P2P1/2B1 – 7 white men, 8 black) White to play and mate in two moves.  
Solution to No 1286 (Hunsing). (1b2b4p2/1p2p2/1P2P1P2/2P2P1/2P2P1/2B1 – mate in two.) 1 R–R6 (zugzwang); (a) 1 R–R6, 2 Q–Q; (b) 1 R–Q4, 2 R–K3; (c) 1 Q–K4, 2 R–K2; (d) 1 K–K4, 2 R–Q3

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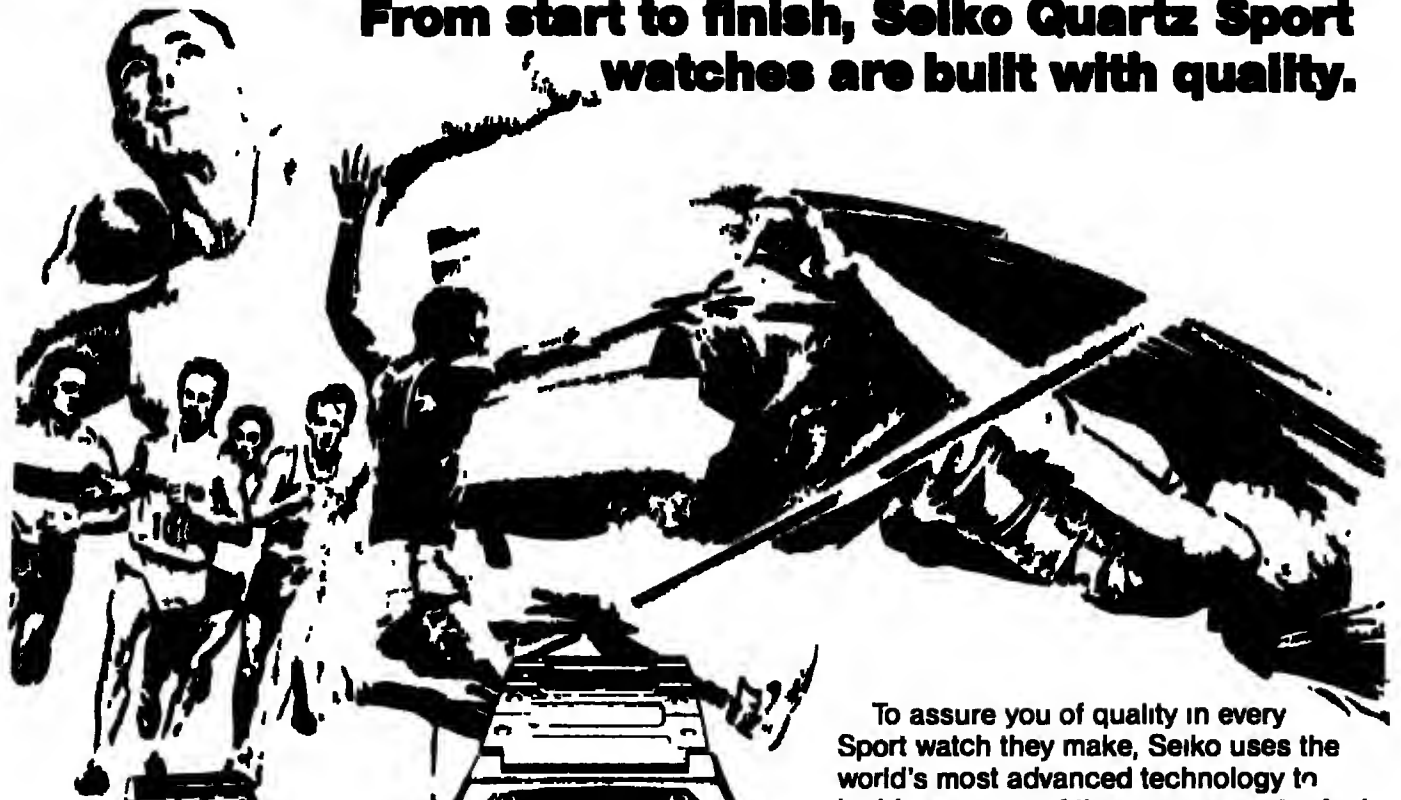
**Ah!Taj**





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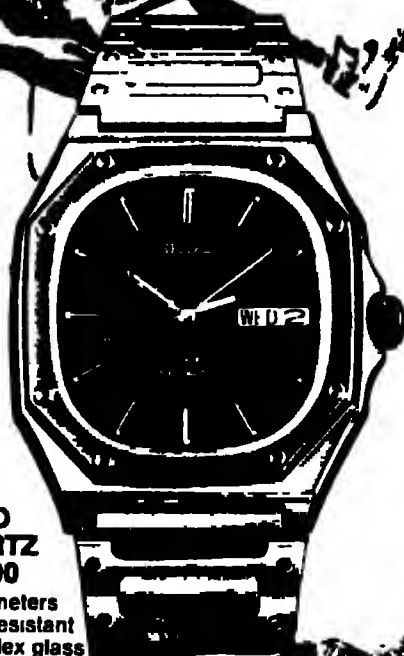
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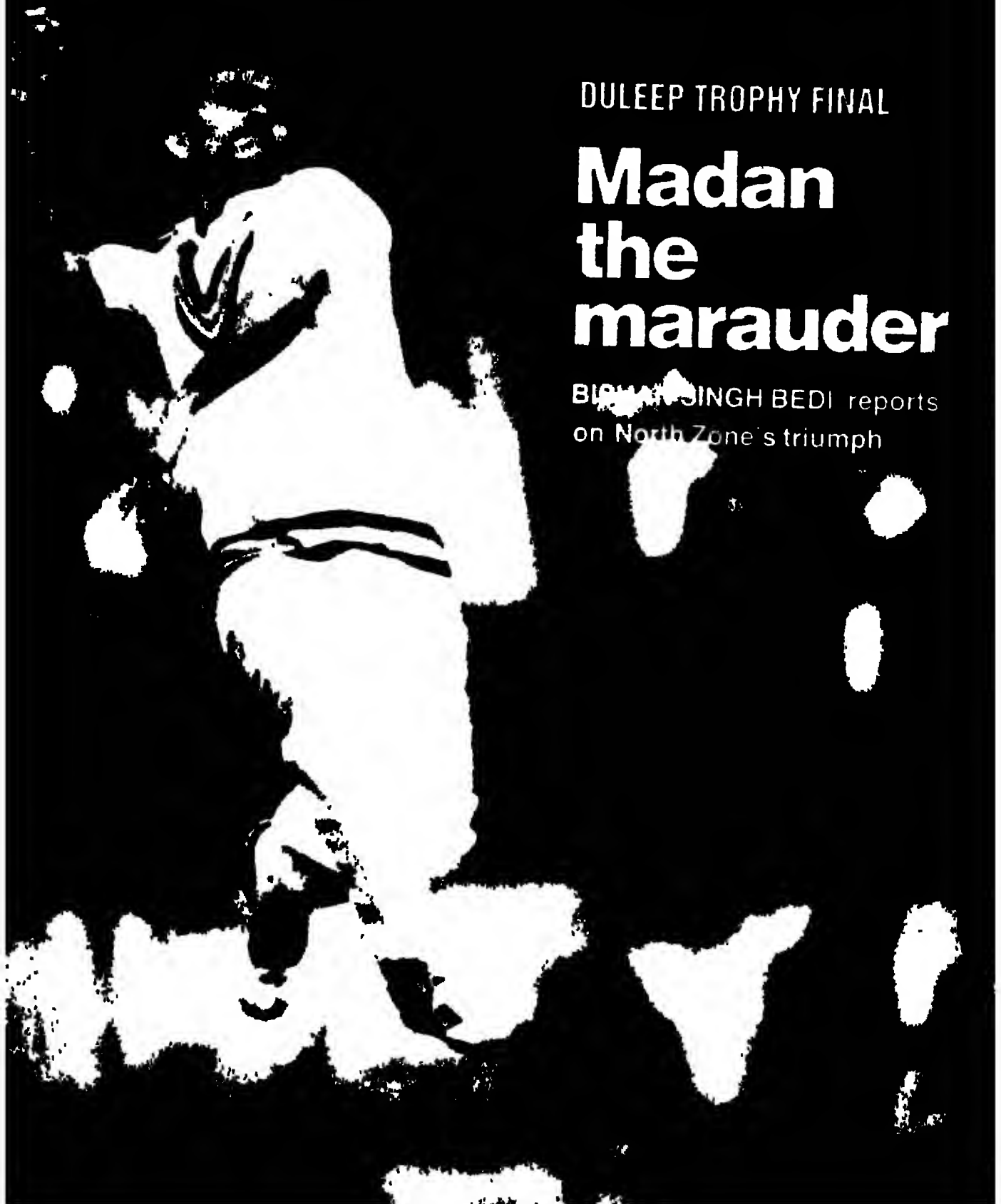


# Sportsworld

DULEEP TROPHY FINAL

## Madan the marauder

BISHAN SINGH BEDI reports  
on North Zone's triumph



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Singapore in the Merdeka tournament but in the other matches he maintained his reputation as one of the best goalkeepers of Asia, if not the best.

If any of the players needed to be picked out for the criticism then it should have been the forwards who missed sixers. Harjinder Singh was a prominent culprit in the Seoul tournament. But back to Bhaskar's master. I feel that it shall do no good for the morale of the Indian team which is already at a pitiable low.

**SHUBHO PAL CHAUDHURI,**  
Bhubaneswar

WITH reference to the article on Bhaskar Ganguli I would want to add that Mr. Ziauddin is not a well-wisher of Indian football but just another power-seeker. He is, with the help of the anti-Bhaskar lobby, trying to deny Bhaskar the captaincy in the coming Asian Cup. Mr. Ziauddin is, I feel, trying to make Harjinder the captain in order to get the blessings of the non-Bengali faction. Mr. Ziauddin is trying to pull his weight from behind the scenes to remain in power and officials like Mr. Magan Singh are making an exhibition of themselves before the country.

I must warn the country that Mr. Ziauddin and his sycophants are slowly poisoning Indian football by allowing nepotism and factionalism to prevail.

**ISIS DAS,**  
Calcutta

I THINK it was most justified to replace Bhaskar Ganguli after his swallowing the three dummies against Singapore at the Merdeka. And, for that matter, Chuni Goswami's outburst bordered on lousiness. He should remember that the so-called lions are the backbone of football in our country and for that matter, in any country.

To be fair, Brahmananda in form is miles ahead of Bhaskar. Bhaskar is rather fortunate to be thought of as the number one goalkeeper. And obviously, the choice as the captain should go to Harjinder Singh who is the most senior in the side.

**S K DE,**  
Disergarh

## A couple of changes

THE Indian cricket team needs a couple of changes. Having a strong batting line-up and a frail bowling stock, the team needs one more attacking quickie. To fulfil this want, Sunil Valson is the perfect choice who is easily a more attacking bowler than Madan Lal. So, he should be included at the cost of a batsman with least harm being caused to the team. As far as our batting line-up one change is indispensable. The replacement should be of Vishy, who is undoubtedly a spent force. Sanjeev Rao should be eligible.

**KUSHAL KR SIN,**  
Raichur

THE Test match against Sri Lanka exposed the inadequacy of the Indian bowling. India lost the advantage in the Test because of the poor performance on the part of our bowlers. If this is going to be the state of the Indian bowling against Pakistan then one can well imagine the result of the Test matches.

**RAJIV DUTTA,**  
Sindri

THE match against Sri Lanka at Madras highlighted our inadequate bowling resources. The selectors will really have to do a lot of homework to produce good results in the long run. Our present bowling attack is too thin. The induction of a genuine spinner and a third medium pacer is an absolute necessity. Mansinder Singh looks certain to fill the former berth while the second place is, more or less, still open.

**GOPAN KRISHNAN,**  
Tiruvannamalai

## Final say

I FEEL that Sunil Gavaskar should be given a free hand in the selection of the Indian team because his knowledge of the game is sound. It is more logical to put Gavaskar in command rather than non-sportsmen (if the term can be used) like Kamal Nath.

**MANJUL KUMAR DUTTA,**  
Calcutta

# ASIAD VENUES

## Ten courts for the tennis venue

**T**HE Delhi Lawn Tennis Association courts, laid some years ago, are located in the Green Belt behind the Hauz Khas Deer Park. This is surrounded by picturesque forests on three sides and, to add a splash of colour and beauty, flowering trees, creepers and shrubs have been planted around the playing arena.

This impressive complex had eight lawn tennis courts for the routine events. Two more courts, including the Central Courts, were added for the conduct of the Asian Games competitions. In all, ten grass courts, including the Centre Court, have been laid and all of them are looking lush green.

The renovation work of this complex was undertaken by the C P W D in April 1981 at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.26 lakhs. This project was com-

pleted in record time, the credit of this enviable achievement undoubtedly goes to the C P W D and its engineers.

Regular watering, rolling and grass cutting are bound to give the courts a billiard's table surface. A water sprinkler system has been designed to keep the courts and the landscape green and viable. Besides these lawn courts, there will be as many as six hard courts on hand for practice purposes.

Other facilities provided in the three-storied building include change rooms for men and women, lockers, running hot and cold water, rest rooms for players, a lounge, a dining room and offices for the Press, radio and the television. There is also a medical room and an administrative block. The seating capacity in the main stadium is 1,800 and it will be

raised to 3,000 by putting temporary stands on the eastern and southern ends. There are two dormitories which can accommodate 40 people. These dormitories will be of great help while organising national and international competitions.

There will be in all seven events for men and women during the Ninth Asian Games. The team events, both men and women, will start at 11.00 a.m. on November 20 and the finals will be held on November 24.

Not long ago, Delhi Gymkhana used to be the venue for big tennis events in the capital followed by the Chelmsford Club or the National Sports Club courts but after the Hauz Khas Complex came up the tennis headquarters shifted.

This venue is now humming with activity. Only last year it was tested at

reels which the National Championships were held here. The Delhi Lawn Tennis Association, which sweated out to have this complex built in the capital, must now be feeling proud of their efforts.

This complex will serve as a boon to tennis players and Delhi can now safely bid for any international competition from the Grand Prix to Davis Cup fixtures without seeking the favours of private clubs. In other words, Delhi tennis has now established a home for itself.

Its surroundings are unmatched. On one side is the sylvan view of a wooded park and on other Asia's biggest residential colony Ramakrishna Puram and the Jawaharlal Nehru University. The historical Qutub Minar, which can easily be sighted, adds charm to this complex.



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# COUNT DOWN 4

**T**HOUGH hockey occupies a special place in the hearts of us Indians, it would be far from the truth to say that our probabilities now training on the Astro-turf pitch at the National Stadium alone command the interest of sports fans in Delhi. However slim our chances in soccer may be, our footballers also camping in Delhi have the best wishes of the capital's public to support them if that can be of any help. Also a lot of sympathy as the young men sweat it out on borrowed grounds.

The object of holding the final coaching camp in the city of the Asian Games was to give our footballers the advantage of thoroughly familiarising themselves with the three grounds and stadia where the soccer tournament will be held. However, it would be a mistake to surmise that they must have got to know every blade of grass at these venues. They had been in Delhi for about three weeks till they got their first chance to get a feel of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the centrepiece of the Games. When it was not booked by schoolchildren and others rehearsing the Games ceremonies, it was not spared to the footballers because those tending the pitch feared damage to the turf. The Nehru Stadium pitch also did not have goalposts fitted.

The only venue where the footballers had been able to seriously play is the Ambekar Stadium, Delhi's traditional soc-

cer headquarters, where a couple of exhibition matches were staged against visiting Soviet club teams. The Ambekar Stadium is the property of the Municipal Corporation which denied free access to it for practice purposes because of fear of damage to the grass. That is also the reason why the soccer probabilities have not been able to train on the Chhatrasal Stadium pitch, Model Town, the farthest of three venues. The man in charge there has spread manure on the pitch. He may well be right. This is not the time of the year for grass to be at its greenest. It needs constant manuring to present a good appearance.

But the authorities of the prestigious Modern School have never lagged behind in the national cause and, like on several occasions in the past, this time also they have placed their grounds at the disposal of P. K. Banerjee's footballers. Admittedly, the ground there was not at its best, with the grass browning, the goal area bare and dangerous for the health of diving goalkeepers and the surface far from smooth in large patches. But it was there that PK's men trained in tranquil peace, watched by a couple of wide-eyed little schoolboys who had stayed back after classes just for the thrill of being able to kick a ball that the India stars were playing with, and that too a "tango" football from West Germany costing 115 Deutsch Marks

not to speak of the Rs 550 duty. This was then way of getting a feel of the Asian Games. These little boys, who could not hope to get a ticket to the football in November/December, at least would go now home and boast that they not only watched our stars in flesh and blood, but also kicked a ball back to the great Hriday Singh or Manas Bhat-tacharya.

The ball, which has been officially approved for use in the Asian Games, also brings us to the other equipment. One also wishes that the organisers had imported the type of goal-posts that are now used in prestigious tournaments abroad. These aluminium goal posts are lightweight and take little time in fixing up. Also, they pose little danger to players who may accidentally charge into them. Had these been readily available in the Asiad stores they could have been easily fitted for practice at the Nehru Stadium and then removed with as little fuss.

However disappointing the results achieved so far in this year of the Asian Games, and however harsh the criticism, there are countless fans like those little boys at Modern School who are looking forward to the Asian Games with a feeling of pride in our footballers.



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# ALL IN THE GAME

## UNBELIEVABLE DEFEAT

*Juventus stars shocked*

THEY donned the familiar black and white stripes of the champion Italian team Juventus. Most of them were World Cup heroes who could stake claims for any World XI. There was Zoff, Gentile, Cabellini, Furino, Briò, Scirea, Boniek, Rossi, Platini, Bettenga and Bonini. 'A star-studded line up', would indeed be an understatement.

The first match of the powerful Juventus in the Italian Championship was not a happy one. They were shocked by an ambitious Genoa club called Sampdoria. The goal was scored by a surprised—to the extent of being embarrassed—Ferroni who said after the match "No one could make me a gift better than the goal against Zoff. When I saw the ball in the net a cry came from my throat that even surprised me." There was also a touch of irony in the match for the Irish international Liam Brady played for Sampdoria, last year he had worn the colours of Juventus.

Besides Brady the only other really big name for Sampdoria was the English striker Trevor Francis who had a good match for Juventus. Rossi was off colour as were Platini and Boniek. The latter was replaced 18 minutes after lemon time and he did not like the change one bit. This could well be the first sign of a clash between the Polish star and team manager Trapattoni. The manager, however, felt that Boniek was tired and this was the reason he was replaced.

Juventus did create many openings none of which they could take

advantage of and as time ticked away the 50,000 crowd could sense that the underdogs just might score the match winner. Trapattoni revealed after the match that he wants a side that fights not a team of great individuals. Juventus may, after all, still recover.

## UNDER THE BELT

*Bugner to make comeback*

DON KING is at it again. The eminent godfather of world boxing is trying his level best to get Joe Bugner back into the British boxing ring to recapture his British and European titles.

A few weeks ago Bugner and his Australian born wife-cum-manager announced that the boxer will be soon making a comeback bid. The 32 year old pugilist believes that the only way he can have a crack at the world title now held by Larry Holmes is if he first regains the two smaller titles in London.

Age is against Joe, not experience. After 65 professional fights he has come out unmarked and is still very fit only a few ounces on the wrong side of his 16st 6lb fighting weight. Many of his critics feel that the former golden boy of British boxing is simply trying to turn the clock back. Bugner thinks otherwise, "I don't see it that way", he replied.

The road to the top echelons of the boxing world is going to be far from easy. The ring will not be the venue where he will meet his first opponent. The Stewards Room of the British Boxing Board of Control will be the place of meeting instead. Bugner left Britain in March 1977 and fought Ron Lyle when, it seems, he was down to defend his title against Billy Aird in England.

## AGA SAGA

*Akidye wins Arc*

ROBERT SANGSTER'S impeccable record in France's most valuable horse race the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe was blotted this year at Longchamp. Alleged (twice) and then Detroit had seen the owner's colours being raised three out of the last five races of the Prix. And there was no reason why Assart a bay colt trained by D O'Brien and ridden by P. Eddery could not bring Sangster glory once again.

The going on the one and a half mile course was soft. Bong Sang led for most of the way but finally St. Martin on the 14 to 1 outsider Akidye had the final say.

## ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS

*Primate plays football*

FIRST it was Reverend David Sheppard. The man in the cassock also, replete with pads, gloves and flames, who played cricket for England. So it is not always that dignitaries of the church cast a disdainful eye on the world of sport. This was once again happily proved by the Right Reverend John Wickstorm who became Lutheran Archbishop of Finland a few years ago.

The Primate a greying but sporting 50 years old has been described as "a liberal cleric who wants to get closer to people" is known by the members of his diocese to be a football fanatic. Before becoming the Archbishop, he donned the colours of Select

XI from his cosy diocese of Porov. The match could well have been termed a 'politico-religio' clash as the Reverend's opponents were a team of Finnish MPs. In spite of some accurate passes and shrewd movements by the Reverend the MPs won 6-1. The Communist MP Esko Juhanen was the star of the match scoring a fine hat-trick.

## DAINGEROUS DRUGS

*Death the result*

SINCE the days of Roman sandals and Julius Caesar sportsmen the world over have been taking drugs to improve performance. However, there is a modern drug which has detrimental side effects and what is worse is that it is not on sport's banned list. Soon a sportsman may even die of it.

The killer drug is a catabolic steroid called corticosteroids which when taken in large quantities changes the structure of bones whereby calcium enters the blood causing bone fragility. Death can be the result of suddenly discontinuing the use of this drug. One thing to keep in mind is that these drugs serve their purpose if they are used correctly for the right treatment. However, as one doctor puts it, "If you start taking them like Smarties then there is a problem."

One sees runners collapse after crossing the finish line. The normal reaction of the body would be to bring about the collapse of the runner. But if one is on the drug the natural signs of the body saving, "hey, this is a warning", do not show. This is why it is better that one has a natural show of the effects of exhaustion—cramps for example than having no effect at all. Thus, friends is fatal.

## DULEEP TROPHY

# North Zone were always the most powerful combination

BISHAN SINGH BEDI reports on the final stages

**T**HE Sri Lankans sparked off the 1982 Indian cricket season and disappeared very abruptly. Very soon the nation's eyes were focussed on the Duleep Trophy, undoubtedly the most prestigious first class cricket tournament in the country.

In the past too Duleep matches have served the purpose of 'trial' games. So from that angle alone, this year's Duleep Trophy was important for all the participants. But it was more significant that for the first time, it was staged at one centre—a very laudable move indeed.

The cream of Indian cricket was mustered in Bombay for just over a fortnight. I am not too sure if the 'quality' of cricket was very outstanding, which was only to be expected with the Ranji Trophy yet to take off.

However, I am optimistically looking forward to the day when the "quantity" of Duleep Trophy can be increased by introducing the league system and then everybody will benefit. The public will watch more good cricket, the players will play more good cricket and of course, the selectors' yardstick will improve considerably.

For the future I am keeping my fingers crossed and for present I'll confine myself to analysing this year's Duleep competition. I have already mentioned that it was a very sane move to run the entire tournament at one centre and which better city than Bombay could have afforded such an opportunity? BCA with two Test grounds at their disposal within a distance of one kilometre did an excellent job.

The only snag at the CCI was that the living conditions for the players were trying. It is not the best of times to play cricket, leave alone at the first-class level in October at Bombay. The minimum that could have been provided for the boys was air-conditioned comfort—it was readily available at the Wankhede but not so at the CCI. Some of the players even suggested that it was cooler in the middle during the day than in the bed during the night.

As one hailing from the North, it was only natural for me to follow the fortunes of the North Zone players and they had plenty of them. Not because they were simply lucky, but also because they were easily the best all-round team, on display.

And in order to prove that, the North Zone lads grabbed the Duleep Trophy most convincingly. I have no hesitation in saying that the present North Zone team is the best-ever combination, led very ably right from the front, by Kapil Dev. It was a very pleasing sight to notice the boys working everything in close harmony.

I would have loved to see Kapil bowl a bit more in the matches against Central and East. But the

very fact that he could afford to rest himself sufficiently bears testimony to the abundance of talent in the North.

It was nostalgic to see first class cricket return to the Brabourne Stadium. North Zone crushed Central and East Zone at the CCI before playing the finals at the Wankhede Stadium.

Young Maninder enhanced his reputation as a strike bowler, while the batsmen were never short of runs. Kiran Azad, Mohinder Amarnath, Yashpal Sharma and Ashok Malhotra all chipping in with centuries. There was very feeble resistance for Kapil and his lads from Central as well as from the East.

It was just as well that 'North Zone' ascertained their skilful superiority in the first two rounds and they

Madan Lal

Mohinder lifts Shastri for a six



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were to continue with the good work in the finals against their arch rivals West Zone, who themselves did exceptionally well to get past South Zone, in a very closely fought semi-final.

At one stage, West were 47 for 5 and how they managed to get a match-winning 313 is as much credit to them as it is discredit to the South for letting the game slip out of their grasp. After being totally in command in the session before lunch on the first day, South let everything drift away from them.

They played a lot of purposeless cricket and during that period Ravi Shastri and Ramesh Border flourished. It was astonishing to find West still batting at lunch time on the second day and lo and behold, their last wicket added more than a hundred.

Was it Vishy's captaincy to blame or the total lack of purpose of his bowlers and fielders? Considering the painfully slow outfield, West's score of over 300 was by no means an easy target for South to get past. West had them on the board, while South were to chase them.

Clearly the pressure was on the latter, which was fully exploited by medium pacer Balwinder Sandhu. To some extent, Vishwanath and later, a limping Abdul Jabbar tried to stretch the West attack, but in the end West's determination to lead on the first innings prevailed. And for all their joyous moments, West owed a great deal to Sandhu, who appears a vastly improved all-round cricketer. His bowling reminds me of the Englishman Tom Cartwright.

Once the issue of the first innings lead was settled in favour of the home team, the game took an unexpected interesting turn with the young Tamil Nadu leg-spinner Shivamkrishnan creating some panic in the West Zone ranks. The youngster bowled with remarkable control, but for him and South Zone, the damage had already been done. Vishwanath admitted later, "West didn't win, we lost it." Quite an honest summing up.

The West North final was expected to be a traditionally needle game—I dare use the word "traditional" because over the years a very healthy rivalry has developed between the North and West cricketers, and considering the high standard of the game in both these regions, this no quarter given or taken attitude can only mean a lot of good for Indian cricket.

The Wankhede wicket showed all signs of confusing a captain winning the toss. Kapil Dev was saved this ordeal when he called incorrectly. Of course, it was a good toss to lose. Both Kapil and Madan exploited the uneven bounce and some brilliant catching by Kirti Azad in the slips hastened the end of the West Zone innings just after tea on the first day.

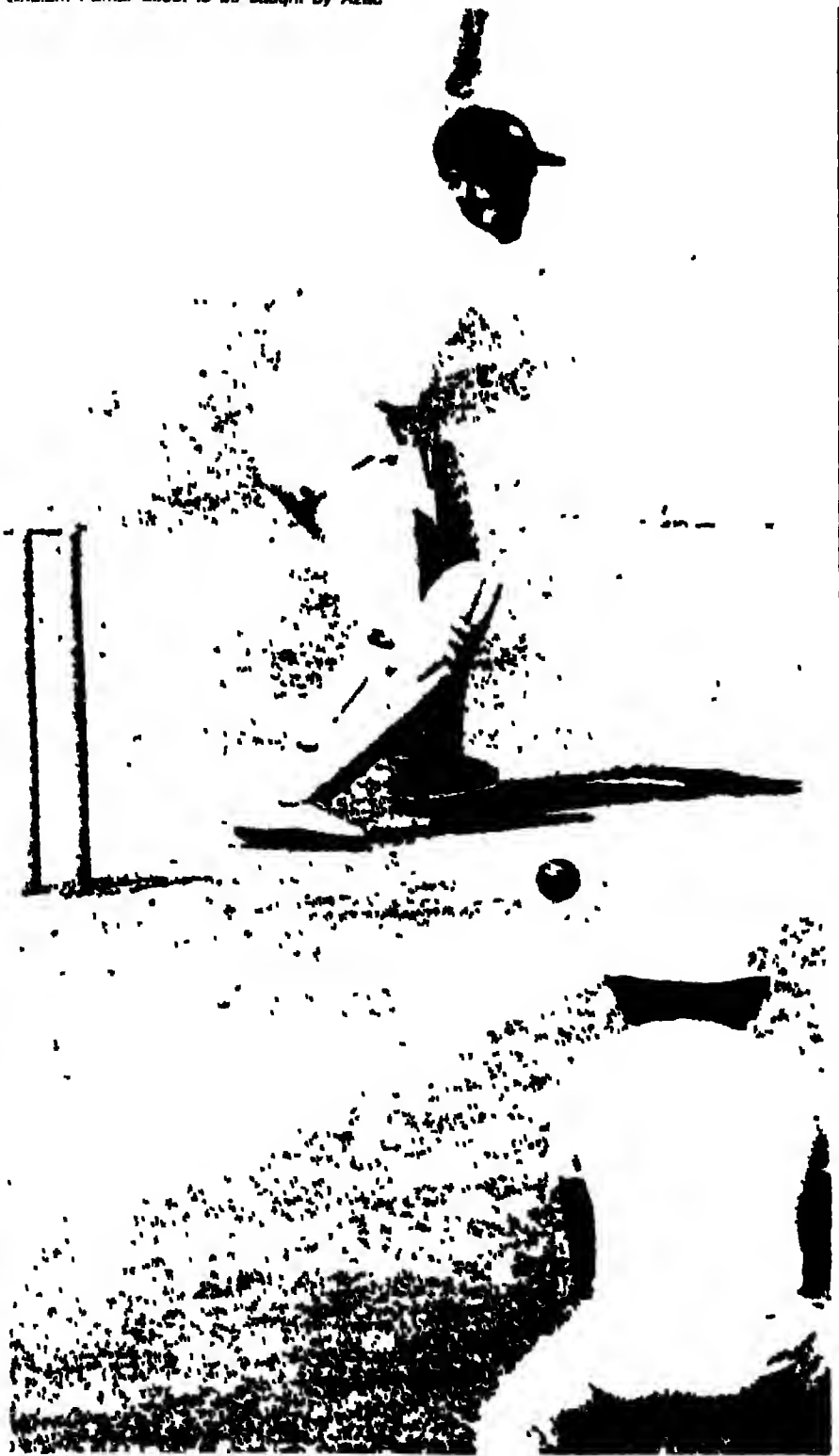
By tea time on the second day, the game had become more or less one-sided, which was a pity really.

A belated attempt by Gaekwad and Gavaskar to revive a West fight-back turned out to be futile as Ravi Shastri's splendid effort with the ball. North's bowling was magnificently served by Madan and Kapil, while Mohinder Amarnath easily looked the champion batsman of the tournament.

*Ghulam Parkar about to be caught by Azad*

But there were others too, who contributed handsomely towards a well-deserved North triumph. I am sure West Zone could have done with the services of Sandip Patil, but their bowling resources were always thin, with only Sandhu and Shastri as good competitors.

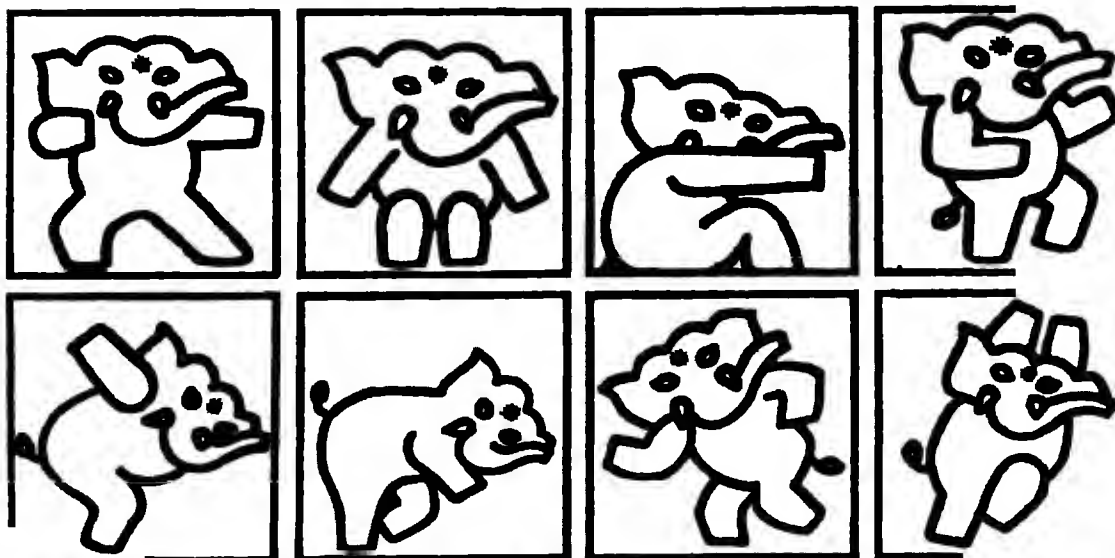
In the end, North were by far the most powerful combination and they surely proved it in everything they did.



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# The difference between audio and video media

**BISWANATH DAS, the Sports Producer, Doordarshan Kendra Calcutta, discusses the problems of radio and TV commentary**

**A**N interesting survey conducted some years ago by North German Broadcasting Corporation in collaboration with KIEI University revealed a striking difference between audio and video commentary. During a football match two radio commentators were found to have delivered about 16,000 words in 90 minutes, while TV commentators only 6,300 in 120 minutes—about 27 per cent less than the former.

Different styles were found to have been adopted by the two media. It was noticed that on the radio there is little scope for using verbs, on TV they are even more redundant. Since TV is a visual medium, its commentators do not need to use as colourful a language as their radio counterparts.

This survey further stated audio and video media make different kinds of demands to their commentators. The difference is in the language, in the approach, and also in the number of words used.

The survey also showed that commentators generally use their language with much greater care than the Press—lesser use of superlatives and far fetched metaphors, for instance.

There is little doubt that TV commentary is a sort of verbal support to a televised picture. But the job is totally different in the case of a radio commentator who seeks to do with

his words exactly what the TV camera is supposed to do for its viewers.

Moreover, TV has some other technical advantages, like slow motion, which makes the task even easier for the video commentator. But he has to be careful about one very important problem inherent in these technical devices. There might remain gaps between the actual coverage of the events and these special effects which are meant to make things easier for the viewer to understand. What the TV commentator has to do is to act as a presenter so that the ordinary viewer can understand which particular aspect his attention is being drawn to.

According to Hubner, "Every sports commentator must know that he can practically never attain to, let alone surpass, the density and stature of the picture with mere words." The commentator can, at most, only strengthen "the authority of the picture, which is invincible."

Commentators must also know that words are not all that make communication with viewers 100 per cent successful. Silence also plays an important role. It might sound paradoxical but judicious use of silence does make the commentary much more meaningful and effective.

If the commentator talks too much the viewer will be at a loss as to

where to focus his attention. In fact, at times he acts very much like a radio commentator when the camera coverage is inadequate. On occasions he might have to say, "You cannot see it, but the linesman has signalled off side." In this connection one very important thing should be kept in mind by every commentator—although the camera can offer a vivid picture of events, it should never be thought to be infallible, nor should one think that human vision is inferior to it, so far as observation power is concerned.

Moreover, there should be a perfect understanding between the commentators and the production team. Otherwise these unforeseen snags might arise dangerous enough to mar the entire show.

TV commentators should also keep in mind that too much use of statistics always produces a negative effect as the viewer loses his concentration on the picture. However, that is not to say that statistics should be totally done away with. It does help the viewers in getting the significance of a particular event.

As for description of the proceedings the commentator should not adopt a narrative style. Instead, he should mention the names of the players and thus help viewers identify them.

The commentator should start with a detailed introduction, describing the background of the event he is going to cover. Well-known athletes may be introduced without giving too much statistical data. In the case of football, the commentator should assess the strength of the two teams in the fray. He should also give other relevant information also. To make the coverage much more absorbing, the commentator should try to give the viewers a feeling of involvement through lively discussions of the various aspects of the proceedings, especially if there is anything controversial. He should consider himself an ordinary spectator and try to judge things from that point of view to understand the viewers' points of interest.



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# Will Gavaskar go to the West Indies?

ASHIS RAY asks

**I**S Sunil Gavaskar again contemplating withdrawing from the tour of the West Indies? He did this in 1980 when, of course, the trip fell through and so the uproar that might have occurred didn't quite take place. Now, it's a different story with very little prospect of next year's visit being called off, though some people believe that the skipper could stage-manage that as well, and so, if Gavaskar does decide not to make a reappearance at his happy hunting ground, the public and Press response will not merely be critical to the extreme, but cast grave aspersions on his attitude as a player. There is less excuse this time of a surfeit of cricket—on the previous occasion he had played 17 Tests matches in a span of seven months and, thus, had a justifiable reason not to risk the 'staleness' against the most fearsome attack in the world. And if he does not undertake the ensuing tour this is bound to be described as highly selfish and he would have very little argument himself against such opinions.

Two and a half months ago, Gavaskar was at Lord's to watch the Pakistanis play England. And in a casual conversation with him, this correspondent attempted to extract an assurance from the captain by saying "I hope you are not thinking of anything outlandish like not going to the West Indies." He answered more in jest than seriousness, "I am precisely thinking of that." To this I responded, "Then, let me be the first to know about it." And we left it at that.

I did not attach much value to this chat and still believe that it was an informal, lighthearted exchange, not deserving of advertisement, least of all in print. And Gavaskar has not come back with anything.

However, a very important member of the Indian team asked me a few weeks ago what I thought would lead the side in the West Indies. This really took me by surprise, and obviously, the question could only crop up if Gavaskar was unavailable. The young man, for some reason, probably thought I knew more than he did, and once he realised his *faux pas*, was reluctant to part with any further information.

Ultimately, after some defensive remarks like "I don't know anything" and "I have not said anything," he came up with the story that Gavaskar had categorically told him that he was not going to the West Indies. And the latter was not the only one to know about it.

This now fitted in with Gavaskar's earlier assertion, albeit in an unofficial vein, giving rise to the query: is he really thinking of absenting himself from the Caribbeans? Personally, I am pretty certain that he hasn't made up his mind as yet, though he might be putting out feelers to close friends and associates, and to an extent, keeping his options open. If he comes out with an adverse announcement, this will only take place after the tour of Pakistan, where his form and confidence could determine his course of action. After nearly 12 years of opening an innings in Test matches, and against some of the greatest fast bowlers of all time, he probably finds it difficult to concentrate series after series without a break.

He, understandably, needs a rest more frequently these days than when he was in his twenties. Moreover, his was a rather ill-fated tour of England. And if he repeats this performance in Pakistan, he would, naturally be somewhat disinclined to take on the West Indian quartet on the same trot.

But on the other hand, if he returns from across the border with a triumph over Imran Khan, he might feel all that more enthusiastic about clashing swords with Holding and company.

The last time, it was put forward by a section of the Press that Gavaskar was scared to face the West Indian pace attack, and that he also would not relish going to Jamaica after his rather caustic comments about the crowd there. I do not subscribe to the first-mentioned view, nor in part to the second.

It's unfair condemnation of a man who has negotiated Lillee, Thomson, Pascoe, Roberts, Holding, Clarke, Daniel, Willis, Hadlee and Imran, and in his earlier days, John Snow, and scored 7000 runs at their expense, to be spoken of as being a coward. Not even the best of batsmen really enjoy playing fast bowling, but quite clearly some handle it more efficiently than others, as does Gavaskar, which indicates volumes in respect to his competence, and more so because he always has to encounter the new ball. If for reasons of too much cricket, he felt he could not give off to his best, one should have honoured this attitude rather than crucified it.

Contrary to what his critics think, a majority of his 25 hundreds have been scored against better than average Test attacks, and he should have no particular qualms about re-

visiting the West Indies where he has been one of the most consistent run-getters in post-War cricket.

As regards Gavaskar's racist and indiscreet observations about Jamaican cricket lovers—he compared them to monkeys—this is said to have led to a furore in the island and allegedly they were out to 'lynch' him the next time he came. This is not entirely untrue and the Indian mission in Kingston, a reliable source once told me had recommended to the External Affairs Ministry in Delhi that Gavaskar should not be sent with the touring party. However, the West Indian Board taking into account financial considerations, is said to have reacted in just the opposite manner. To them the Indian was the biggest attraction from a spectator standpoint and it was futile to have a team from his country without him. "No Gavaskar no tour" or something to that effect was, reportedly, the message sent to the Board of Control in India.

Thus, looking at it a bit cynically, the cancellation proved a boon to the parties concerned, except, perhaps, to the Indian Board who would otherwise have made some profit from the guarantee money. Gavaskar did not want to go and was not eventually called upon to do so. The Indian Mission did not want him to go and he did not. And the West Indian Board did not want the team to go without him and got it their way. The official reason then put out was that Clive Lloyd and company were exhausted after the visit to Australia and were scheduled to go to England soon after. But that was possibly a diplomatic means of wiggling out of a tight corner.

It has been expressed in the English Press that Gavaskar should take a rest for a couple of years, and then come back for a last stint—akin to Geoff Boycott's tactics in the Seventies. It has been put to the Indian, and he probably realises this better than anybody else. The mental strain of withstanding fast bowling can contribute to a psychological inability to cope with it any longer. But Indian sentiments are different, and if the captain quits the hard ground in the West Indies, the Press and the public are unlikely to forgive him for it. One hears that he was jeered in Madras almost throughout his innings of one hundred and fifty odd against Sri Lanka. It could be much worse and a nationwide outcry if he chooses not to go to the Caribbean.

# If it had been a continental film I would not have taken up the role

**VIJAY AMRITRAJ** talks to **PARTAB RAMCHAND** about his role in **Octopussy** and his plans for the future

**VIJAY AMRITRAJ** has obviously taken his role in the film 'Octopussy' as seriously as he did a Centre Court encounter with Jimmy Connors. He spoke enthusiastically about his role and what it was like shooting opposite James Bond (Roger Moore).

Vijay Amritraj said that it all started with the offer being made to him in London earlier this year. He agreed to do the role because it was in a James Bond movie. "And as you know James Bond has an international appeal. If it had been a continental film which would have been seen only in Europe I would not have taken up the role", he explained.

Vijay went on to elaborate his role. "I play an undercover British agent in India, who is Bond's right hand man. It is a good role and comes to about 20 minutes screen time. The most awesome aspect of my role was that since I was with Bond, most of my scenes were shot with Roger Moore. And I must say here that Roger is the nicest chap you can meet. If I was a bit tense at first, I was soon in a relaxed frame of mind, thanks to him and the director John Glen, who also did his best in putting me at ease."

"The whole location shooting experience at Udaipur was an interesting, even thrilling, experience", Vijay Amritraj went on. It was the first James Bond film to be shot in India and generated unprecedented enthusiasm. There were tremendous crowds and the media men were there too in strength with foreign correspondents, including those of *Time* and *Newsweek* and many Indian reporters. The whole scene was unbelievable.

Amritraj said that the film was being done in the usual lavish James Bond manner. There were a lot of special effects and the sets were really massive. In fact at Pinewood Studios in London there was a set called the "007 Set" used exclusively for James Bond movies. He said that he had finished three weeks of location shooting in Udaipur and a week's indoor shooting in London long before. Now, all that remained of his work in the film was a ten day shooting schedule at Pinewood Stu-

dios. He said that he would be given a good billing—among the top half a dozen names screen—despite the fact that besides Moore, the picture also starred such well known names like Louis Jordan, who played the villain, and Kabir Bedi, who is Jordan's right hand man in the movie. Speaking of his role, Vijay said that he wanted to play a "good man's role" since that was in keeping with his image on the court. Moreover, he did not want to start his film career playing as a villain. He confirmed that he would be attending the premiers of the film in London, Tokyo and a couple of other places.

If more film roles came his way would he forsake tennis, this correspondent asked. "Well, tennis would get my first priority," he replied. "As long as I am good enough, as long as I think I can still win Wimbledon win my share of tournaments occasionally beat the Borgs, the Connors, the McEnroes and the Lendls I shall continue to play the game I love. Anyway, nothing yet has come my way so we shall cross that bridge when we come to it."

He has played less tennis this year. Was it an indication of an early retirement? Vijay was forthright in his answer to that question. "From January to June I played in my usual number of tournaments. Then, just after Wimbledon till the end of August, I did not put the racket to ball since I was down with the mumps. In fact, my first international outing was the Davis Cup match with Russia. Also, the film shooting did its bit to cut down into my tennis schedule, as also did the fact that I did not play in the Grand Prix tournaments."

"But then," Vijay went on, "I have never been a player who has liked to play ten weeks in a row. For the last couple of years, I have been having a schedule of three weeks and then one week's rest after that. For example, for 1983 I have a playing schedule of 38 weeks. But I hope to bring it down to 25 weeks though I will play in both the Grand Prix and WCT tournaments."

Vijay's remaining schedule for the year is to partner Anand Amritraj in the WCT tournaments at Amster-

dam, Baltimore and Chicago. He will be back here around 22 December and after spending the Christmas vacation with his family, he plans to start tennis clinics. These will be called "an evening of tennis" and would be held in some of the major cities of India.

"Anand and I will conduct these clinics basically to create interest among the juniors," Vijay explained. Asked whether any foreign player would come along with them, Vijay said that much as he would like to have a foreign player coming down it did seem unlikely that even the second line of good players, let alone the top players, would come. "For one thing, they all have a tight playing schedule and will not be able to break off even for two days, let alone a week. Secondly, comes the money factor. I am doing it for free, but foreign players would come even if they were given 20,000 dollars. If at all someone does come, it will be more out of a favour to me", Vijay said.

The whole programme would last a week to ten days and then Vijay will be back in Madras for the most important event of his life—his wedding to Shvainala Wenceslaus which takes place on 17 January. This will be followed by a reception at Colombo on 21 January and a day later he will fly back to Madras. On 24 January he will take off for Zurich for his first tournament of 1983.

I queried about Borg and whether a comeback in a big way was on the cards for the five time Wimbledon champion. Vijay said that he had no doubt that Borg would play "Damn well" in an effort to make it to the top. "I can see him making it to the top five", Vijay said. "But frankly, winning of the Wimbledon title or the US Open is doubtful. The one year lay off is definitely going to be a handicap. Still, one can't write off a player like Borg totally and, for him, I would say that nothing is impossible."

Could he see any change at the top next year? Vijay replied that even though there were a couple of talented new faces, he did not see much change at the top for 1983. "I still think it will be Connors and



Vijay Amritraj and Rahn Dohi on the sets of *Octopussy*

McEnroe fighting for the Wimbledon title, McEnroe, Connors and Lendl for the US Open and Lendl, Wilander, Cier, Vilas and Borg for the French title.

About India's loss in the Davis Cup to Russia, Vijay was emphatic on the point that "We missed Ramesh, our best prospect on clay. He also cited the subnormal temperatures and the substandard courts for the defeat. He confirmed that Yugoslav referee had made a mention of all this in his report to the International Tennis Federation and hoped that some action would be taken.

He was firm of the view that India was still among the top of half a dozen countries in the world. "It was just bad luck that we met the USA in the first round and then you know what happened in the USSR. In India, we have a fair chance of beating even top opponents but given the conditions we were given in the Soviet Union, there is little we can do". He said that besides India, the other top tennis playing nations were USA, Czechoslovakia, Argentina, Sweden, France and Australia.

**F**OURTEEN years ago, Ramnathan Krishnan on his return from the United States after the inter-zone final of the Davis Cup (India lost 1-4) had said in an inter-

view that "It is time for the youth to step into the national squad for the international tournaments".

Now Krishnan had been representing India in the Davis Cup since 31 when he spoke those words. It is significant that Krishnan's last year in the Davis Cup was just the following year (1969) though he came back to play one match for India in the mid-Seventies.

On 13 October this year, Vijay Amritraj struck, more or less, a similar note. He observed with dismay that there was no second string Indian team. "After the fall of us (Vijay, Anand, Shashi and Ramesh) does there seem anybody good enough to carry on the Indian banner? After we have gone, what then? serious steps have to be taken to uphold India's prestige which has been very high in the last 30 years, at first because of Krishnan, Lal and Mukherjee and later because of us. But the way things are going, India's reputation in the tennis world could be grievously hurt".

It is important to mention here that Vijay is 29 and, like Krishnan, has been our chief player for a decade now. So his remarks are as significant as Krishnan's 14 years ago. "You certainly are painting a grim picture and rightly so", this writer told him. He was reminded

that the same grim picture was painted when Krishnan, Lal and Mukherjee were nearing the end of the road in the late Sixties and then slowly one by one the four of them had come up and were carrying India's banner proudly. Moreover, the Indian Tennis Federation were still sending junior squad to Europe and the States every year.

Yes and that is exactly what I wanted to point out," Vijay enthusiastically said. "It is true that we were generally products of the scheme of sending the junior squad abroad every year. But obviously it is now an outmoded approach. It is not yielding results anymore. Maybe, it is also due to lack of effort on the part of the individuals. But whatever it is, nothing concrete seems to be coming out from it. Now it is time we tried something new."

"Do you have anything in mind?", I asked. And at that Vijay unfolded his panacea for revamping the face of Indian tennis, a plan which he said would "provide a new injection into the tennis arm of India".

Vijay asserted there was no escaping the fact that tennis talent chiefly abounded in the main cities. As such, it was best to concentrate on the four metropolitan cities of Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi. He said that as a beginning to the programme, 50

talented boys could be selected from each of the four cities and put under the supervision of a local professional. Four weeks of training this number could be pruned down to three from each centre. These 12 could then be sent to Bangalore.

"Why Bangalore?" I interrupted. Vijay explained that climatically Bangalore was best for tennis, besides having all the amenities available to a big city, which are conducive to all the aspects of tennis. The 12, he went on, would have to be placed under the supervision of two advanced coaches and one physical training instructor. There would also have to be a minimum of four courts for the wards who would be in the age group of 12 to 14.

It would have to be made clear to the boys at the outset that their life over the next two to four years—depending on their progress—would be a hard one with no distractions whatsoever. Side by side their academic programme would not be ignored and they would have special tutors to see that they were educated properly. He suggested that the boys could study from 7:30 in the morning to 1:30 pm. Then after an hour's break for lunch and some rest, they could be on the court from about 2:30 pm and stay there till 7:30 pm. There was no need of a foreign trip till the boy was about 16 years. And then he added with conviction that

"If we follow this system there is a good chance of one of the boys winning the junior Wimbledon." Vijay Amritraj reiterated that there was tremendous potential in the country and claimed that immediate results of his plan could be seen within a year of starting it.

This writer told him that the scheme, while it did seem excellent on paper, was rather expensive. Where was the money to come from? "From industrial and business houses," said Vijay at once. "What do you think has been responsible for the tennis boom in the States? Chiefly sponsorship. Only these companies can afford to shell out the kind of money that could inject that kind of unbridled enthusiasm and top quality into Indian tennis. With the backing of the national tennis association and the State bodies I have no doubt that this can be done," he said. And he added "I have a feeling that it will work."

What about the surface? Wouldn't the boys suffer from playing on just one kind of court when there were so many surfaces abroad? "We tend to make too much about the surface," Vijay replied. "Ultimately it is the game that counts. The ball has to develop an all-round game. He can practise being good at the net or from the backcourt on any court. The surface does not make a difference."

Vijay Amritraj in fact concluded by telling this correspondent that he

had written to the President of the Indian Tennis Federation, Mr K. K. Birla, giving the outline of his master plan and hoped that something would come out of it.

His staying abroad for 11 months in a year has obviously not meant that Vijay Amritraj has not given Indian tennis a thought. Far from it. He has been following closely the alarming trend that there is no second line in Indian tennis. The youngsters today leave, for some reason or the other, not developed as quickly or as systematically as Vijay, Anand and Ramesh Krishnan or before them as Krishnan, Lal and Mukherjee did. He has obviously done some hard thinking about the future of Indian tennis which at the moment is very grim. And he has come up with a plan that certainly deserves a trial. It is a long term plan, in fact, the tennis equivalent of a five year one. But then, champions are not made overnight. All the players mentioned above did not reach the heights suddenly but slowly made their way up the ladder. Vijay Amritraj's master plan could see a couple of sincere and hard working lads work their way up and India could soon develop a good second line. Will the local associations and the parent body with the co-operation of the business and industrial houses, as Vijay suggested, act on this? The sooner they do so, the better for Indian tennis.



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# JOHAN'S NO STRAUSS

But his tennis is like classical music, says PETER JORDAN

**G**RANDPA used to tell us about them. There was the Dan of Australian cricket. The great batsman went through hours of teenage sweaty practice and soon always middled the ball. It was not a cricket bat which he used but only a narrow stump instead. Unbelievable!

Then, of course, there was the story of the ebony skinned footballer Puskas (grandfather for some reason called him Pusky) who learnt his soccer in narrow back streets—there are many such rags to riches stories. Virtual nonentities becoming sporting geniuses.

There is another. That of a ten year old breaking windows on his father's small sugarcane farm in north east South Africa. Many panes were shattered as young Johan Kriek worked his way out of the verandah on the farm right up to the privileged top ten of the tennis world. It's not very often that we hear of such a cradle for a tennis superstar who is sometimes aggressive, always athletic and often temperamental.

The family of this one of the best tennis players in the world have been living on their farm in a place named Pongola, a little valley about four hours by horseback from the Indian Ocean.

Johan Kriek, in fact, once said, "It reminds me a lot of Hawaii, because of its mountains and foliage. Pongola boasts of a small petrol pump, a couple of cars and just one grocery. It's a really small place, save the hundreds of sugarcane fields. But now the home of this quiet farming community is in the news. It is the place where Johan Kriek lives."

Kriek's pastoral background is right out of one of the poems of Matthew Arnold complete with green trees and sprawling vegetation. The 24-year-old South African has been on the professional circuit since 1978 and has slowly but surely moved up to the Top Ten of professional tennis. In 1981 he made it to the quarter finals at Wimbledon where he went down fighting to the eventual winner 'Superbrat' McEnroe. At the 1982 championships he once again performed well.

The 5 foot 8-inch, 155 pound South

African is a mixture of opposites—a truly enigmatic and intriguing person. He's a killer every inch of the way on the court, ready to steamroller his opponent as he pounds away an endless stream of whipping forehands, controlled backhands and deceptive volleys. However, there is another man behind the clenched fists and grinding teeth. The juvenile Kriek. He loves the thought of racing in cars at breakneck speeds. He's not the least interested at the thought that a mishap could bring his promising tennis career to an abrupt close. But then this is not the time for such thoughts. The thing that worries this young lad the most is that he cannot go back and spend at least some time in the company of the sugarcane trees in South Africa.

**K**RIEK is a sentimental person. As he relaxed after one of his many tournament wins he reminisced of "the leisurely life on dad's farm. Even this did not allow lethargy to set in and young Johan was either playing rugby or tennis after school or enjoying himself in the river or speeding to thrills on his racing bikes. He is as he himself once put it, "Just going crazy and having a good time."

That was not the end of Kriek looking nostalgically back. There is always a twinkle in his eye when he talks about how great an athlete his father was. It was his father who first introduced him to the game when he was only three. He hit his first ball at a small sugar factory in his home town and, as mentioned earlier, graduated to playing in his backyard after which he became a player to contend with at the school level.

The South African confides that he has always been very competitive in everything he did. "I think I was helped along in sports by a kind of rivalry that existed between the Afrikaans-speaking people, myself included, and the people who spoke English and mostly lived in the cities. It was a pride thing. In rugby, for example, we always wanted to beat the English, show the suckers who were the best," Kriek continued, "We always thought of them as skinny guys, not the type who

could play rugby." It was, undoubtedly a fair boy talking.

Over the years it has been seen that the brute strength of the youngsters on the farms did not come in handy when it came to winning matches on the tennis court. Things were very much different till Kriek came along. Johan whose style is as smooth as any one of the sonatas of Beethoven or Strauss was the first person to admit that before him there were not many people from Africa who made it really big on the tennis scene. One reason that could be attributed to this dearth of tennis players from Africa is that they just did not have the same facilities of the many cities in England.

As the present superstar stepped into his teens there was, according to many, every chance that he would become a top rugby player. Kriek thought otherwise.

**H**e left the sublimity of his sugarcane farm to join a boarding school in Pretoria. There is little doubt, as we look back on it, that the move benefited his game as he was always ranked in the top three in his age group. But then where in the world is there not politics? In spite of regularly performing well, young Johan was never selected by the African Tennis Federation for any of its sponsored tours. Kriek looked back on the treatment dished out to him with an air of bitterness. "The federation kept overlooking me year after year. Other less promising juniors were chosen and they got all their expenses paid. It was impossible for me to go to the big cities like Cape Town as my parents could just not afford it."

Kriek has good reason to believe that only the English speaking children were chosen and, "These were the people I was beating regularly, and yet I wasn't chosen", he lamented.

The talented tennis player had soon had his fill and could not bear the treatment that was being meted out to him anymore. It was a challenging decision, but then one which had to be made. He followed his coach—who only a few months ago

had migrated to Austria

It was not easy in Austria for this lup and coming tennis player and he had to practise for many hours a day. He only took part in some small satellite tournaments. The money did also come into Kriek's pocket through the many juniors he coached and soon enough the hard work was rewarded. There was enough in his bank balance, and Johan Kriek was on his way to the United States.

The South African Press were not sympathetic towards their countryman whom they dubbed as a traitor and "the unpatriotic tennis player". There was a school of thought that felt that Kriek had left the country because he did not want to represent South Africa.

But this was not the reason he had left. It was plain and simple, the African Tennis Federation had been giving him a raw deal and he had left for greener pastures because he could stand it no longer.

There is little doubt that Kriek still feels the repercussions of the decision he made to leave South Africa. He is now married and he and his wife Tish have settled in Naples. Kriek, who is still a South African by nationality, lives in the company of his two dogs Barfy and ATP (appropriate name this) and a parrot that talks named Kato.

Kriek is just dying to make a trip sometime to South Africa to renew old acquaintances. However, there is a hitch. The tennis star fears that the authorities in South Africa would force him to do compulsory military service. He, quite obviously, is in no mood to put in two years in the army. So, for all practical purposes Kriek is a man without a country.

He once made it known that these thoughts do not really bother him. However, Kriek is the first one to admit that the thoughts about his far away motherland still do affect him.

He feels, and quite rightly so, that he can bring more glory to his country holding a tennis racket than brandishing a machine gun, and it is for this reason he does not see why he should not continue playing the game he loves so much. Johan is one of the fastest movers in the game. And that is saying something, with men like Connors and McEnroe around. He hits that ball real hard and is one of the fittest players on the circuit.

Kriek feels that he has adjusted pretty well to the situation that he is in now. A man without a country. He once said in a reflective mood, "Sometimes, though, when I'm sitting at home or in a canoe, suddenly you start thinking of all the things that have happened to you. You feel, God, it is time to go home now, time to return home and see my people."

**T**HERE is little doubt that the emotional mixup did affect the South African. However, Kriek did not allow his personal problems to



affect his game. After moving to the United States from Austria, he played in the former country's WATCH satellite circuit four years ago.

He did very well on this circuit and also put up a tremendous performance on the American Express satellite tour. These performances are chickenteed when compared to his showing at the US Open Championships in 1978. Here he lost to Vitas Gerulaitis in the quarter finals but not before sending shock waves throughout the tennis world. Just before this, Kriek was ranked as low down as 278 on the ATP computer and then in a space of only a few weeks had moved up to number 27.

It was a sudden rise to the Top Thirty but when he reached this stage he did stagnate a bit and there was no improvement in his ranking for quite some time. He remained in the 'thirties' until he started being coached by Hank Jungle, a retired US Air Force lieutenant colonel. Kriek's fortunes began to turn immediately for the better. They worked, as Jungle revealed, on some technical aspects of the game and the results then began telling their own story.

Jungle, a great analyst of the game explained, "Kriek was particularly strong on his backhand but was a trifle weaker on the forehand. He had a tendency to steer the ball and always wanted to hit down the line. Moreover, he didn't have a kick serve in his repertoire. He had never learned a top spin serve and was known for double faulting at crucial stages during matches."

Another drawback with Johan Kriek's game was that even though he was very fast on court, he did not have very good footwork. The first two problems were soon overcome and the last one was also because the talented South African started practising with dead tennis balls. The ploy worked and wins started coming more easily on grass courts.


The boy who had played his first days of tennis on a sugarcane farm has always had problems controlling his temper. "I've always been emotional as a child," Kriek confided, "I'm a very intense person when it comes down to business. Sometime ago during a match I told myself 'Stop it Johan, forget it. Just play tennis, shut your mouth, be nice like everybody wants you to be.'" And so it was. Let's keep it that way Johan.

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# A hat trick of sorts by Pakistan

**KHALID MAHMOOD** files his despatch from Lahore on the third Test between Australia and Pakistan

**PAKISTAN** did it again. They beat Australia, though this result showed little signs of materialising for most part of the game, and did their reputation much good and confidence all the better with the Indians due to fly in around late November. What is easily perceptible is the team spirit in the Pakistan dressing room, on the crest of a wave already. In this mood of mind Imran Khan and his sentinel would consider the West Indians small fry. The English, to whom the series was lost in the summer, has, if you have noticed, already been ascribed to poor umpiring.

One angle that reflected quite strong in retrospect was Javed Mian-dad's hundred, coming after quite a long time as it is. It provided the base for the argument that politics and the Pakistan team were now consigned only to the pages of history. Though not many would agree.

Australia began the first day on a note of self preservation and their opening stand of 85 put up by Graeme Wood and Bruce Laird emphasised a team resolve to work out a solution to most of their problems of the tour. They got far but only initially, after which the bug caught on and a slide almost inevitably ensued. Laird was the first to go, lbw Qadir, not the most refreshing thoughts for Aussie hearts after the leg spin rout in the first two Tests. Altogether 85 had been added till then and that it was past lunch showed Australia in rather encouraging light. To begin the hitting-the-fan fiasco, it was Dyson who left his leg stump exposed and paid for it with only 10 to himself. At 120, even that looked not too bad for a side struggling to provide the ready formula and 15 runs were added to it when the players trooped in for tea.

Wood had played himself in tremendously. He looked vulnerable only at times, against balls that turned more unexpectedly. But otherwise his was one cruise amidst choppy waters. He had managed to hang on right till after tea from the very first ball of the game and was even willing to put some beef into it

when the situation warranted. A couple of sixes and half a dozen fours were the result before he nicked Qadir to the clutching hands of Mian-dad, to give the bowler his second wicket in three. The breakthrough had been made.

Without another single addition to the tally at 140, Border went for nine, his leg in the wrong place, off Imran. It seemed cruel for Australia, bent on proving that they were not as bad as their performances in the earlier two games had shown them out to be. And Hughes with Ritchie



*Kim Hughes—another series lost*

at the other end saw out the afternoon of scant offering without further fuss and ado. Twenty six to the former and 19 for the junior may not have been Bradmanesque but as long as they were there, not entirely forgetting their potential, Australia looked to be heading for firmer ground and a draw at worst.

THE visitors resumed at 188 and to confound pundits, they fooled again. Another of those collapses and Australia were making off for square first. Hughes was bowled by Naqqash on the ninth run of the

morning while at 202 Iqbal Sikandar closed in on an aired shot of Marsh off Imran with success. Greg Ritchie creamed it all when he was leg before to a fiery Imran, smelling blood, for 26 and 203 for seven wickets raised visions of a vacant fifth day.

Not that Lawson and Bruce Yardley could be convinced. Yardley put in some muscular abandon to good effect while Lawson couldn't have cared less for the home team's bowling. In fact, Yardley played more typically. He always has been noted as a pretty volatile batsman later in the order and some of his lustily hit heaves seemed to confirm this. As long as the two were there the scorers could not afford a snooze—the runs were coming off at close to a run a minute. Quite a different story from the first day's jeremiad, by a long chalk that is.

But Yardley paid for his impetuosity. He was taken on the boundary line off debutant paceman Jalaluddin for a well-made 40. Meanwhile, Lawson plugged on. Joined by Alderman, as many as 35 were added with the newcomer's contribution being only three. The end came when Alderman missed the line of a fairly simple Imran delivery and had his stumps messed.

Earlier, it was Jalaluddin who had his moment of pride. Having got rid of Yardley, he had Thomson disposed of next ball. The hat-trick, however, was averted by the incoming and quite awkwardly placed Alderman.

Geoff Lawson was left stranded at 57 not out when Australia ran out of steam at 316. Not really bad when you consider that they had looked like spluttering out at about 225 and that the side looked like struggling to even put up a day of respectable performance, let alone setting out of the camp to conquer.

And to even out whatever advantage Australia had achieved, Pakistan made way with 95 to their credit for the loss of only two wickets. With a respectable score behind them the Aussie bowlers looked like going full throttle and with success, too, but Mohsin Khan and Mudassar Nazar worked out the brakes and 92 for the first wicket had been hoisted. The latter succumbed to a Lawson delivery for an inescapable lbw. Qadir looked the most probable man to help Mohsin see out the beautiful Lahore evening and indeed he was there, trudging in. But it failed to do Pakistan much good. Qadir was beaten by a Yardley off-spinner with the shadows lengthening and he played awfully to Laird at 95. With stumps still ten minutes away, Mansoor Akhtar was required to take control and much to Imran's comfort the remainder of the play went without incident.

THE following day, the third, and Pakistan made sure that the match

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RAHUL GUPTA



## PAKISTAN VERSUS AUSTRALIA, LAHORE

AUSTRALIA (First innings)		(Second innings)	
GRAEME WOOD c Mianad b Qadir	85	c Mudassar b Jalaluddin	30
BRUCE LAIRD lbw Qadir	28	lbw Naqqash	8
JOHN DYSON b Jalaluddin	10	lbw Naqqash	51
ALLAN BORDER lbw Imran	9	st Ben b Qadir	6
KIM HUGHES lbw Naqqash	29	st Ben b Qadir	39
GREG RITCHIE lbw Imran	26	lbw Imran	19
ROO MARSH c (sub) b Imran	1	c Mudassar b Jalaluddin	12
BRUCE YARDLEY c Haroon b Jalaluddin	40	b Imran	21
GEOFF LAWSON not out	57	c (sub) b Imran	8
JEFF THOMSON lbw Jalaluddin	0	not out	15
TERRY ALDERMAN b Imran	7	c Zabeer b Imran	0
EXTRAS	24	EXTRAS	17
TOTAL (all out)	316	TOTAL (all out)	214

**Fall of wickets** 1 85, 2 120, 3 140, 4 140, 5 197, 6 202, 7 203, 8 264, 9 284.

Fall of wickets	1 21	2 55	3 64	4 138	5 157	6 170	7 189	8 203	9 203
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**Bowling** Imran 24-2-45-2 Naqqash 18-4-85-1, Mudassar 6-1-16-0, Jalaluddin 19-4-77-3, Qadir 37-7-86-2, Zahoor 2-0-2-0

**Bowling** Imran 20-6-35-4, Naqosh 16-3-30-2 Qadir 35-7-102-2, Jalaluddin 16-6-15-2, Mudassar 2-0-5-0, Zaheer 1-0-1-0

PAKISTAN (First innings)		(Second innings)	
MOHSIN KHAN b Border	135	lbw Lawson	14
MUDASSAR NAZAR lbw Lawson	23	not out	29
ABDUL QADIR c Laird b Yardley	1	not out	2
MANSOOR AKHTAR lbw Lawson	12		
JAVED MIANDAD c Hughes b Alderman	138		
ZAHEER ABBAS c Yardley b Alderman	52		
HAROON RASHID c Ritchie b Thomson	15		
IMRAN KHAN not out	39		
TAHIR NAQQASH not out	7		
EXTRAS	45		9
TOTAL (seven wickets declared)	467	(for one wicket)	64

**Fall of wickets** 1 92 2 93 3 119. 4 269 5 392. 6 402 7 442

Fall of wickets	1 55
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**Bowling. Thomson 19-1-73-1, Lawson 35-4-91-2 Lawson 34-4-144-2, Yardley 27-6-102-1, Border 4-1-12-1**

**Bowling** Thomson 5-0-24-0 Lawson 7-1-21 1 Alderman 3-0-10-0

**Pakistan won by nine wickets**

would not be lost. And there was more to this than just good batting from Pakistan. For Australia seemed abounding in generosity, dropping so many catches that you would lose count of them. The result of the lull was that Mohsin Khan notched up the third hundred of the year after spending lunch on 99. Mansoor Akhtar had earlier gone for just a dozen trapped in front by Lawson, after which Miandad and Moshin showed intentions of extending plain batting to downright bash-bazookery. Miandad looked in tremendous form just at the right time, too, while Mohsin was annihilating every Aussie at Gaddafi Stadium.

Mohsin went bowled Border for 135 and it seemed quite a bit of surprise after he had stepped out to hit the same bowler for four to reach his century earlier in day Zaheer Abbas it was who helped Miandad see our play on the third day with 19 to his name With Pakistan at 318 for four wickets, the lead taken, the main issue now was time A quick foray from Pakistan's quarter seemed to be on the cards for the fourth morning AND so it was Javed Miandad got

his century with Zaheer advancing to 52. Haroon Rashid was cut short at 15 and that seemed a blessing in camouflage with Imran Khan coming on to hit 39 and yet remain unbeaten. The hostilities were called off from Pakistan's side at 467 for seven wickets, 149 being added till an hour after lunch. It looked depressing for Australia. They had failed once again to bowl out Pakistan in an innings. The bowling figures looked even sadder. Alderman, *Wisden's* Cricketer of the Year, was hit for 144 while Yardley, last season's 'Australian Cricketer of the Year' had yielded 102. If only they could have adorned Australia's batting sheet.

They didn't look like coming along that way. By the time the dusk had settled on Lahore three of Australia had already perished for 66, 85 still away from resurfacing. Abdul Qadir, Jalaluddin and Naqqash had split three wickets amongst themselves. Hughes and Dyson saw out the evening in togetherness but the problem was by now just loneliness.

**AS EXPECTED, Australia made**  
for the storm and packed up. But the  
beginning never spelled out disaster  
in the manner in which it ultimately

came about. Though some really sale negotiation Hughes and Dyson saw the issue to lunch with the score at 138 for three. And then the dam burst. At that very score Dyson went trapped by Imran, with Hughes swinging across the supposed perimeter of the ball and being trampled off Qadu for 39. The lights went out in the Australian dressing room.

At 170 Jalaluddin had Marsh edging into the slips before Imran stepped in once again. Yardley, expected to give trouble, was clean howled for 21, Lawson caught by the substitute off him for eight and Alderman snapped up by Zaheer off the Pakistani captain again. Suddenly, Imran had four to himself and, what's more, the Man of the Match Award.

Summing up, it must have been one of the worst tours made by Australia on either side of the Reef. Only once in this century were they ever beaten in all the Tests of a series before this one. And without Greg Chappell and Dennis Lillee. The Australian Board shall probably make sure that for the sake of their cricket they don't stay back home when an Aussie team flies through the fluffly stuff again.

## Profile

# The star trek

PARTAB RAMCHAND  
profiles spinner

L Sivaramakrishnan

He has already accomplished something that not even the four great spinners—Bedi Chandrasekhar, Prasanna and Venkataraghavan—had achieved. Prasanna played two Ranji Trophy matches before being selected for the Zone and Chandrasekhar four matches. Bedi played two whole seasons before making the next grade and Venkataraghavan one season. But Lakshman Sivaramakrishnan played only one Ranji Trophy match and was in the South Zone team for the Duleep Trophy that was held at Bombay this October. Not only that, he has already been spoken of in some circles as worthy of wearing the Indian cap. Now this is one career that could rightly and justifiably be hailed as the proverbial cliché goes—a meteoric rise.

To be thought of and spoken of so highly at 16, Sivaramakrishnan was born on 11 December 1965—is enough to make one's head spin. But behind the boy, one of Sivaramakrishnan's many fine traits is his humility and modesty. He understates that he has been thrust into his current position because cricketers are breeders of rare. How many leg spinners are there in this country? It is evident, at one thought it had come to him with the disappointment from the scene of Subash Gupta and Vaman Kumar Chandrasekhar was of a different type. But, undoubtedly in the late Seventies the dark complexioned lad turned up and has worked his way up the ladder step by step.

Leg spinners are traditionally short. All the great purveyors of this sublime art, from Gurnett and Maclaren to Gupta and Kumar—were short men. The only notable exception was Bedi who was a six footer and thus had a magnificent action. At five feet and six inches, Sivaramakrishnan's right arm is about the ideal length for the spinner. But the lad is only 16 and will obviously grow. Not only that, this Sivaramakrishnan admits that like Beaudie he will have to change his action if he is to gain better control over the length and line.

As things stand now, his control over the two departments is extraordinary. I have observed the lad

career closely for about three years now and I marvel at the manner in which he keeps the batsmen guessing. He harasses them, plays with them, then toys before getting them out. He has them in two frames of mind and finally in no frame of mind at all. Quite often, I have seen batsmen come forward and then realise that they should have gone back. Similarly, I have seen batsmen go back and realise—too late, of course—that they should have gone forward. Sivaramakrishnan, even at this tender age, has acquired the knack of mixing his leg spinners with the googly and the top spinner. Of course, he has not mastered the art. Who can do so at 16? But one must give the youngster credit even for taking up something so difficult like leg spin bowling.



Record breaking looks like Sivaramakrishnan's hobby. He surely is nothing short of a prodigy. At the tender age of 12, playing for Vidya Mandir against Don Bosco in the TNCA Schools Tournament, he took seven wickets for two runs. About this time he was developing his batting, too, but he says, "got more wickets than runs, so I decided to concentrate on bowling."

The season 1979-80 was the first to bring him into the limelight. He took a packet of wickets while playing for Tamil Nadu and South Zone in the All India Schools Tournament. Then, at the beginning of 1980-81, he was among those selected for the South Zone Under 15 camp at Bangalore. He impressed so much that he was

immediately put in the Under 19 camp which was held a little later at the same place. To put a boy not yet 15 in such a camp itself seemed a gamble. But then, the selectors sprang a much bigger surprise by selecting Sivaramakrishnan in the team to tour Pakistan. The junior selection committee deserves every credit for this bold and farsighted move.

The tour was called off at Pakistan's request and an alternative trip to Sri Lanka was hastily arranged. Ravi Shastri was the captain and he gave Sivaramakrishnan a reasonable amount of bowling on the short tour, which was badly affected by rain. The baby of the team celebrated his fifteenth birthday on the tour which seemed to do wonders to his bowling skill.

This was immediately apparent on his return. He played a notable part in South Zone's winning the Cooch Behar Trophy grabbing four wickets in the quarter final, six in the semi final and three in the only innings that he bowled in the final. He also led Tamil Nadu in the Vinay Murali Trophy and took six wickets against Karnataka and against Hyderabad he had a splendid match taking three wickets and scoring 95 and 93. His form, which he had neglected in the preceding two years, seemed to have staged a comeback during this game and from then on has paid adequate attention to this aspect of his game also.

Things then started happening quickly for Sivaramakrishnan. A tour to England with the Indian Under 19 team followed in July 1981. He grabbed 22 wickets in seven matches though opportunities were limited on this tour with Shastri and Mohinder Singh doing most of the bowling. Sivaramakrishnan was not even played in any of the Tests. Back home, he represented Tamil Nadu in the Under 19 Under 22 and Under 25 tournaments. A string of performances saw him in the State reserves and then in the Tamil Nadu 14 for the pre quarter final against Uttar Pradesh. Then, on the eve of the quarter final against Delhi at Madras, pace bowler Sunil Valson tried off following an injury and the selectors chose Sivaramakrishnan to take his place.

On such strokes of fortune are careers made. At 16, Sivaramakrishnan was probably the youngest ever player to don the State's colours. He was brought on just before lunch on the first day and I remember, how nervous he was. Not unexpectedly, he went wicketless for a long time. Venkataraghavan, however, gave him all the encouragement and except for the skipper he bowled the most number of overs—25.1. His first victim was Deepak Sharma and then three overs later, he got Surinder Khanna. Both were out leg before and Sivaramakrishnan finished with two for 77.

By the time Delhi started their second innings, 116 runs in front, the wicket was deteriorating. There was a patch outside the leg stump at the end opposite to the pavilion. Vasudevan and Sivaramakrishnan were the only bowlers who could exploit the pitch and the former, in fact, took three quick wickets giving the impression that he would run through the side. But the running through was ultimately done by the lad making his debut. He howled three overs before tea and the rock and roll dance by the Delhi batsmen started immediately after the break. Kirti Azad was stumped off Sivaramakrishnan, second ball after tea. And then like the proverbial Pied Piper—only this time it might have been the Nadeswaran—Sivaramakrishnan led them one by one to their doom. And he did not waste any time in completing the demolishing act. All in all, he took seven wickets off 50 balls for 14 runs. And in his bag were the following—Kirti Azad, Gusharan Singh, Rakesh Shukla, Surinder Khanna, Madan Lal, Mohinder Amarnath and Maninder Singh. Could a debutant wish for the better?

The figures itself are astonishing. But what caught the eye more was the manner in which he bowled. That the wicket was helpful no one will deny. But he used the patch effec-

tively. His accuracy saw each ball landing directly on the patch and gave no choice to the hapless batsmen but to play it. If they jabbed at it, the ball spun enough to carry to slip or to silly point. Mohinder Amarnath and Rakesh Shukla, both experienced and hard strikers of the ball, tried to hit their way out of trouble, but could not clear mid off. There was no escape either way. The prison doors had been locked both ways by the slip of a lad. In 50 minutes, Delhi slipped from 90 for three to 117 all out as Sivaramakrishnan, cleverly switching from over to round the wicket and back again every now and then, confused them to no end. It is an unorthodox tactic to bowl leg spinners from round the wicket. You have to be on the spot always otherwise you run the risk of the batsmen 'murdering' you. It is a tribute to Sivaramakrishnan's skill, accuracy and guile that for one so young, that even this unorthodox tactic paid off.

As if determined to make his debut a dream one, Sivaramakrishnan now proceeded to make an impression with the bat too. His mesmeric spell had given Tamil Nadu an excellent chance of turning the tables on their more fancied rivals. Shoddy batting saw Tamil Nadu at 144 for eight in their quest of 234 for victory. But Sivaramakrishnan gave Vijayakumar excellent support for the

ninth wicket and the two inched Tamil Nadu towards their target. Sivaramakrishnan dealt impressively with the spinners of Shukla and Maninder Singh on that spinning track and even fended off the bouncers aimed at him by Madan Lal. Ultimately, it was a close run out decision that saw Sivaramakrishnan dismissed but not before he had batted an hour for eight runs and had helped Vijayakumar to add 48 runs.

Having toured Sri Lanka and England, Sivaramakrishnan now made a trip to the West Indies in April this year as a member of the Schools Games Federation of India team, led by Maninder Singh. In many ways, this was his best tour. He played in seven matches out of eight, took 38 wickets and scored 350 runs. He played in all the three mini 'Tests' and won three Man of the Match awards. The tour was another step in the upward climb to success for this shy youngster.

What of the future? The selection into the Zonal side is obviously a great lead in his career. Already there is talk of Sivaramakrishnan and Maninder Singh contesting the young spinner's spot in the team to tour Pakistan. If he does well at Bombay, it could well be him. The critics will then say that he is being rushed. It is up to Sivaramakrishnan to prove them wrong.



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# When the PCA did not play cricket

ASHWINI MINNA writes in from Jullundur on the financial bungling of the Punjab Cricket Association

**T**HE day of 20 December, 1981, was a momentous one for Jullundur - rather for Punjab. The sport loving city for the first time staged a representative match - the second one-day international between India and England. The Bishan Bedi Stadium popularly known as Burlington Park with its sylvan surroundings was indeed, a fitting place for such an occasion. The success of the match brought fond hope to the Punjab Cricket Association that the day is perhaps not far when Jullundur will enjoy the privilege of staging a Test match.

But is everything all right? The euphoria of India's first victory over England in a limited overs match paled into insignificance when the Punjab Cricket Association's auditors pointed out anomalies to the extent of Rs 1.85 lakhs in the expenditure incurred by the Association in conducting the match.

The match, which fetched a tidy profit of Rs 5,55,111.93 for the PCA, was not conducted to the satisfaction of all. Many valid ticket-holders from far away places like Ferozepore, Bhatinda and Chandigarh were denied entry into the stadium. The high handedness of the police personnel was another talking point.

The audit report submitted to the PCA last month, raised objections in the purchase of furniture, besides expenses claimed on consumption of electricity and disbursement of prize money and awards to the players. The Association had shown a total expenditure of Rs 9.02 lakhs. According to the investigation made by this reporter, the Association purchased furniture and a woollen carpet worth Rs 21,373 as against Rs 31,530 shown in the balance sheet. The furniture which included an office table, a swivel chair and one sofa set cost Rs 8,635, the wool-

len carpet for the office room cost Rs 13,738.83. This carpet, it is believed, was bought from M/s. Carpet Palace, Jullundur, as per their bill number 642 dated 16 December, 1981. The other furniture mentioned above was bought from M/s. Universal Commercial Corporation, Jullundur. Thus, the total expenditure on these items accounted for Rs 21,373 only while in the balance sheet the amount has been shown as Rs 31,530.

The PCA Honorary Secretary, Mr P.M. Padove, in a statement some months back had said that Rs 10,000 was spent on furniture for the players' dressing room. This, even after a cursory glance at the room seems unbelievable.

The second objection raised by the Auditors was in connection with Rs 20,000, supposed to have spent on the hire of furniture at the stadium. The expense was made on an estimated basis for want of original bills and relevant supporting evidence. The report said and added that it should have been supported by a resolution from the PCA Executive Committee. Similar objections have been raised on the expenditure of Rs 1,500 on electricity fittings, Rs 2,000 on electricity consumption and another Rs 2,000 on miscellaneous expenses. Thus, it seems that a total sum of Rs 25,500, has been pocketed by the PCA from the total profit of the match without producing genuine bills and vouchers. The strangest part of the whole episode is that even after ten months of the match, the PCA has failed to get the bills from the respective suppliers.

Same is the case with a sum of Rs 35,800 stated to have been distributed among players. The auditors' objection to it was that neither any detail of the said prizes and award nor payees receipts were produced to them for their verification. The PCA officials claimed that they had distributed the prizes as per a resolution passed by the Executive Committee during the match. However, the auditors were not convinced as the PCA had failed to produce any resolution.

The auditors also refused to verify the total contract income of Rs 33,500 to the Association for want of copies of the agreement and the receipt. The break up as given by the PCA was Rs 20,000 from Pure Drinks India, Delhi, Rs 3,000 from United Biscuits, Parwanoo, Rs 8,000 from Nibble Restaurant, Jullundur, and Rs 2,500 from Mr. Balkrishan of Jullundur in connection with a contract relating to the Car and Cycle stand. It is generally believed that the income from these sources was many times more than what the PCA offered.

According to the PCA, Rs 47,637 is collectively owed to it by the former President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Mr. S.K. Wankhede, the Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur.



The furniture of the players' dressing room which the PCA claims to have cost Rs 10,000



dur, nine semi-Government Boards and corporations of the Punjab Government and a few local industrialists and businessmen—two of whom were vice-presidents then of the PCA—towards sale of tickets and advertisements.

While the Deputy Commissioner was not in the city for comments, a local industrialist—one of the vice-presidents of the PCA—when contacted, flatly denied that he owed a sum of Rs 15,000 as shown in the report. He further said that he had deposited nearly Rs 50,000 he had collected by way of advertisements from his industrialist colleagues. His firm had incurred an expenditure of Rs 70,000 in putting up the scoreboard and other fixtures at the Birlon Park Stadium.

Another businessman, a vice-president of the PCA during that period had stated to have owed a sum of Rs 9,225 to the PCA when contacted sounded very disgusted with the PCA affairs and laid said that he would "quit the post" as it was a "thankless" job.

As against the souvenir expenses of Rs 10,609.10 as shown in the balance sheet, the Association was actually billed for Rs 8,442.38 by a local printer for '500 copies' of the souvenir. The printer when contacted told this reporter that about 20 copies were printed on the day of the match for distribution among the higher cricket bosses. About 150 copies were given to the Association after a few days. Whether 500 copies were actually printed or not is also a moot point.



This is where the carpet that cost Rs 12,738.83 was laid. No carpet remains.

According to the PCA, a cocktail party was thrown on 21 December at the biggest hotel of Jullundur for the players, journalists from all over India, the selectors and officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. This party accounted for a sum of Rs 9,600. But the auditors refused to accept this also for want of supporting vouchers and receipts. But the matter of conjecture is whether this party was at all meant for the players, the visiting journalists and officials or for the PCA members for a 'pdt well done'.

It is an open secret that the match was played on the morning of 20 December, 1981, and both the teams left for New Delhi on the same night as the third Test was to begin on 23 December, 1981. Thus, it seems that this sum was spent on the PCA officials only.

The hotel in which the Indian and the English teams stayed on 19 and 20 December, 1981, was paid a sum of Rs 10,318 by cheque as against its bill for Rs 12,117. But the PCA in its balance sheet showed the amount as Rs 15,332 towards board and lodging of the teams. It may not be out of place to mention here that the English team paid the bill for their board and lodging from their own pockets.

A sum of Rs 4,845 has also been shown as an expenditure on upkeep and maintenance of the Birlon Park Ground when, in fact, it is being maintained by the Jullundur Municipal Corporation.

Some months back, the Jullundur Municipal Corporation which looks after the Birlon Park Stadium got the PCA office vacated and the carpet was removed by one of the Association's post holders. It is a mystery as to how the Association's equipment could become somebody's personal property.

The Association's profit of Rs 5.55 lakhs from the one-day match was mainly on account of the bumper sale of tickets valued at Rs 3.73 lakhs and advertisements worth Rs 2.94 lakhs. Contract hoarding and strips and sponsorship brought in one lakh each into the association's coffers. Although, the executive members were wary of demanding an enquiry into the working of the Association, there was an undercurrent of resentment among its few members.



The accounts showed that Rs 4,845 had been spent on the maintenance and upkeep of the Birlon Park Ground. It does not seem evident from this picture.

**BRIGADE OF GURKHAS GOLD CUP**

# Sharing stones and glory

**SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL** reports from Darjeeling

**T**HE Brigade of Gorkhas Gold Cup is a sick tournament. At least that is the impression one got after talking to the stalwarts of the Darjeeling District Sports Association, the body in charge of conducting the competition. The diseases they have diagnosed are chiefly financial, caused by various factors like unavailability of funds, lack of interested people who can come forward to help the organisers by way of donations and sponsorships or the exorbitant demands made by the top ranking teams.

There are in addition many other problems which, according to the organisers, stand in the way of the smooth running of the tournament. For instance, the fencing system of the ground is inadequate to check the infiltration of ticketless spectators.

Moreover, the wooden stands on the two sides of the ground need to be erected afresh every year as the ground is private property which has to be vacated after the competition. The structures are generally broken to pieces and auctioned to the local traders. Above all, as claimed by the

organisers, the amount earned as gate money is not enough to make the tournament a success as a profitable concern.

All this has of late made the Darjeeling Gold Cup the problem child of the Government of West Bengal. With recurrent losses plaguing the tournament (as the organisers claim) and the big teams doing their best to elude the invitation of the DDSA, it has been extremely difficult for the Government to keep the event alive. It has no option but to grant heavy aid as it has done this year by earmarking Rs 1,50,000 in addition to bittling pressure on some clubs to join the tournament. Every club, however, is free to take its own decision whether to participate in a competition or not and East Bengal had serious reservations about going to Darjeeling this year. But since the Government is keen on holding the tournament for various reasons, it is going out of its way to ensure that it takes place.

But the question that remains unanswered is if the Government is interested in the well being of the competition, why is it not paying any

attention to certain alleged irregularities in the functioning of the DDSA? Take for instance the amount the State Bank of India came across in the bill submitted to them as the cost of printing the tickets. In an attempt to help the organisers, the Darjeeling branch authorities of the State Bank offered to take on the entire responsibility of printing the tickets for the tournament, as well as meeting its costs.

Strangely there was not much of a response from the organisers' side and the bank official concerned had to use his own initiative in getting matters finalised. Even more strange, the DDSA tournament officials insisted on arranging the printing on their own, with the Bank paying the costs only. "But when the bill was submitted, we found the amount simply incredible. It was in the region of Rs 13,000 when it should have cost them not more than Rs 6,000. I just threw it away as a false bill," said the top official of the bank who considered it better to remain anonymous.

He further added, "I think the Gold Cup will never be a losing proposition if such irregularities are looked into and sorted out properly. There are many other such inconsistencies which are taking their toll on the competition. There are also a few notorious people involved in the affairs of the DDSA. These are the unwanted elements who try to make money out of the tournament in various ways."

Considering all this, is it not high time that the Government—since it is taking such an interest in the Gold Cup tournament—took steps to probe into these irregularities? They should weed out the unwanted elements once and for all, especially because this was not the first time that such allegations have been made by people holding responsible positions, both in government and non government quarters.

Since the tournament's inception in 1975, two groups have been vying for power in the DDSA and one group had to give way to the other amidst allegations regarding embezzlement of funds.

As learnt from several reliable sources, the group, that was ousted from power left Rs 190,000 outstanding in payments. "It is too much. There must have been something wrong somewhere," commented a senior official of the West Bengal Government, who was once very closely attached to the organising committee of the Gold Cup tournament. "How can a tournament committee suffering losses afford to function in the face of such inexplicable things?" he wondered.

People not privy to these goings-on inside the DDSA generally blame the Government when they hear rumours about the tournament's imminent death and when the news of heavy financial losses incurred by



Shyam Thapa and Chinmay Chatterjee receiving the trophy from the Governor Mr B D Pande

the organisers float in the Darjeeling air. Demands for more governmental aid are often made by the organisers. But it is high time serious consideration was given by the Government to these problems arising from the internal bungling of the DDSA. Definite steps must be taken to prevent all sorts of financial irregularities.

**T**O the common people of Darjeeling, the Brigade of Gurkhas Gold Cup tournament is a festival heralding the advent of autumn—the best season in this hilly region. To the organisers of the competition it means about a fortnight of a harrowing experience and to the members of the Fourth Estate it is a weeklong holiday otherwise enjoyable but marred to a considerable extent by one factor which should put the District administration into shame. The lack of tele facilities put the newsmen covering the tournament into great hardship in sending their copies to their respective headquarters, let alone the problems caused by frequent power cuts.

The State Government has over the years attached more importance to this tournament popularly called the Darjeeling Gold Cup and even have gone to the extent of creating inordinate pressure on clubs that are unwilling to take part in it for various reasons.

Considering all this it is simply inexplicable why Darjeeling should still have to make do with outdated teleprinter services which prove to be of little help when it comes to handling rush jobs. If the Government is really sincere about popularising this tournament they should pay more serious attention to various such problems, instead of trying to keep it alive through saline injections.

However, it must be admitted that the officials at the Darjeeling Telegraph Office did their best to help the newsmen.

**T**HE tournament reached its climax when East Bengal and Mohun Bagan met each other in the final. People from as far away places as Gangtok, Siliguri and New Jalpaiguri started pouring into this small township. Excitement reached fever pitch and expectations ran high that an enjoyable show of soccer would be on display at the North Point (St. Joseph's) ground.

But what was really in store for them was far from anything that can be described as enjoyable. Of course, the performances the two giants put up were not quite disappointing. But the incident that followed the match was absolutely disgraceful for both East Bengal and Mohun Bagan and also for referee Pradip Nag who was conducting the match.

As the match ended goalless the two teams were asked to play extra time, according to the laws under which the tournament was being

conducted. But both the sides declined to do so, and ostensibly an understanding was reached between Subrata Bhattacharya and Mihir Bose, though neither of them was captain. It was then left to the referee to take a quick decision as tension among the spectators was mounting rapidly. Strangely instead of asserting his authority the referee started a prolonged discussion with the officials who too were at a loss to take a decision. In the mean time the crowds grew restive and a banner on one side of the stands was set on fire. After about 20 minutes this correspondent heard the District Commissioner Mr. A. K. Dev asking the Superintendent of Police whether or not they should declare the two teams joint winners. The latter promptly replied in the affirmative and the formalities were carried out in no time.

East Bengal started their game in an aggressive manner with Mihir Bose playing the key role in the offence and maintained their dominance for the most part of the first half. The other three frontliners especially Krishnagopal Choudhury and Arup Das created a number of good moves which Mohun Bagan had a tough time thwarting. However, the Mohun Bagan defence played a consistent game. Subrata Bhattacharya played the ideal role of a sweeper on the other hand the Mohun Bagan forwards did not play strategically. Krishnam Dev who had been considerably effective in the earlier matches could not add to the strength of his sides attacks. Nor could Ulaganathan play his usual role as winger.

The situation however was quite different in the second half. Mohun Bagan returned into the game and Shyam Chapa created several dangerous openings in front of the East Bengal goal. But Dame Luck was not with them. Mohun Bagan maintained their pressure though Gautam Sarkar was not playing to his usual form as a linkman and Krishnam was still not being able to adjust himself to the strategy of his colleagues. In fact Mohun Bagan could get a goal in the second but their efforts were to some extent thwarted.

Thus this year's tournament came to an end but the bitter memories it left behind would remain etched in the minds of the people for some time especially those innocent football lovers who got harassed by a section of the mob which grew violent. The ground was littered with

**"T**HE majority of Darjeeling would not like to see East Bengal win the second semi-final," commented a senior member of the Darjeeling Sports Association as this correspondent was elbowing his way through the thick crowds that thronged the North Point football ground where the tournament was being played. "They would never want the final to be an all Calcutta affair," he continued, "and think we would earn more gate money if Punjab State Electricity Board can defeat East Bengal and thereby meet Mohun Bagan in the final."

But the East Bengal boys were in no mood to oblige the Darjeeling soccer fans. They put up a mitch



Mohun Bagan's Krishanu Dey (right) and East Bengal's Pulak Biswas locked in a keen tussle

improved performance than what they did in their first leg engagement to ensure their berth in the final. In an effort to rectify the mistakes they had made in the earlier match they brought Mihir Bose in the forward line for playing as a striker and concentrated on initiating positive moves, instead of getting bogged down in defence and becoming unnecessarily panicky about Manjit Singh. The strategy did not take long to show its worth. As early as the 15th minute Mihir took his side into the lead by scoring a spectacular goal off a measured lob from Arup Das on the right of the box. Mihir tied the ball neatly to the far side of the net leaving the PSB custodian Darshan Singh little scope to make any attempt.

In the next minute another good move was launched by the East Bengal forwards—it culminated in a powerful shot from Mihir hitting the crosspiece of the PSB channel.

Apart from Mihir, the other man who has largely responsible for the

noticeable improvement in East Bengal's display was Arup Das. He sprung most of East Bengal's attacks. On the other hand, PSB were more or less on the defensive throughout the match. Barring a few attacks they launched thanks mainly to the occasional mistakes of the East Bengal defenders who in general, performed their duties well. Manjit Singh, on whom rested the hopes of the PSB team, played an important role in his side's attacks. However, his team mates did not feed him well. But Manjit forged a good combination with Darshan Singh Gogoi who though not in his previous self was somewhat operative in the forward line. In the 39th minute of the first half Manjit gave Gogoi a measured lob. But the move could not be successful as Gogoi instead of taking a direct shot at the goal gave the ball to Bhupinder Singh who was standing in an off side position. In fact this move speaks volumes for the defects that were plaguing the PSB boys game, especially in the offence.

lack of finish and judgement at the most crucial moments.

ON the other hand, Mohun Bagan had to overcome a stiff hurdle to make their way to the final of the tournament. Despite including Gautam Sarkar they had to toil hard for a long 110 minutes and then ensure their berth in the final through the breaker which they won 5-4. Learning from their experience in the first leg semi-final, An India adapted an ultra defensive policy making it a point to bottle up Krishnam Dev and Shivam Thapa right from the beginning. Both these players were instrumental in Mohun Bagan's onslaught against the Bombay team in the earlier encounter. But in the first 15 minutes never did they seem skilful enough to succeed in realising their strategy. The Mohun Bagan frontliners went on the offensive immediately after the kick off with Shivam creating a few clever moves with close cooperation with Amitava Mukherjee, who, unfortunately, was not in his usual form in the first leg semi-final. Amitava got a golden opportunity in the 6th minute but wasted it as his shot hit the crosspiece from close range. A few minutes later Shivam got a beautiful chance of a Krishnam Ulaganathan combined move down the right wing. Had not Shivam been obstructed by an An India defender Mohun Bagan would have got an early lead. Strangely the referee did not award Mohun Bagan a free kick.

These two moves were dangerous enough to send shivers down the spines of the An India players. Naturally thereafter it became a story of eleven green and maroon slumped players wasting their energy. However, the Mohun Bagan backmen were not feeding their frontliners well. Krishnam for instance was not being misused properly despite the fact that whenever he was given a good pass he harassed the An India defenders. Moreover, Shivam too was not being able to adjust himself well to the fast pace in which the game was being played.

An India did not change their strategy in the second half too. They could hardly make any move while Mohun Bagan continued to storm their rival defence zone with increasing vigour and enthusiasm. Unfortunately the way in which the An India players responded to Mohun Bagan's challenge was far from constructive. They sought to counter the pressure through rough play. The result was that as many as four players of the Bombay outfit were shown yellow cards, though a number of dangerous tackles were overlooked by the referee. Most of the players were booked because of misbehaviour on the field. Two players of Mohun Bagan, Bikash Panji and Ulaganathan, were also shown the yellow cards. Bikash Panji was booked after getting involved in a fist fight with

## Future uncertain

It has been said by many an important figure in the Government as well as in the Darjeeling District Sports Association that the proposed stadium near Lebong is the only solution to the problems plaguing the Darjeeling Gold Cup tournament.

Accommodation problems would be solved, to start with. In addition, the ground conditions would be much better than those of the St. Joseph's College ground at North Point. Above all it would be a full-fledged stadium, one that has been awaited since 1964 in Darjeeling.

Now, the West Bengal PWD Minister, Mr. Jatin Chakraborty has announced that in all likelihood the next Gold Cup tournament will be held in the new stadium—cause for great expectations indeed. But will the dream of the Darjeeling people ever come true? Doubtful. At least, that is the impression this writer came away with after talking to some key men of the DDSA. Mr. Vijay Pradhan, the vice-president of the association, expressed his concern over the future of the stadium now under construction. He said "Chances are that the structure might collapse even a few days after it is completed. The Government should have appointed contractors solely on the basis of their merit and capability, instead of going by the quotations offered by them. Now we are so worried that we have formed a special committee to visit the site as frequently as

possible in order to keep an eye on the construction work. It will also help us expedite the progress of the preliminary work. But I am still not very sure about the future of the stadium."

At present the pace of work is extremely slow. Only a small portion of the basement of the stands on one side has so far come up. There was no sign of work anywhere near the site when this correspondent visited the place on the rest day of the Gold Cup tournament. A Press conference was reportedly called where the PWD Minister Mr. Jatin Chakraborty was supposed to meet the Press. But strangely, no conference was held at the site and the Pressmen had to come all the way back to their hotels without anything substantial in their notebooks.

Mr. Pradhan also informed that the restriction they had imposed this year on the distribution of complimentary tickets caused them a lot of trouble as some government officials, who did not get such free passes threatened to cut the electricity connections and stop water supply to the ground and actually did so when their deadline was not met. "We had to gherao the local SDO to restore the electricity and water supplies," said Mr. Pradhan.

However, the District Commissioner Mr. A. K. Dev denied that any such incident happened when this correspondent sought his comment on it.

an Air India player

After the match ended in a draw 20 minutes of extra time has played, after which the tie-breaker was enforced. Mohun Bagan then emerged winners with the margin of only one goal, thanks mainly to custodian Dilip Pal who saved a somewhat difficult shot of An India's Fernandez.

In fact, both the custodians gave a good account of themselves especially An India's Vijay Swami who was tested time and again by the Mohun Bagan forwards.

**P**UNJAB State Electricity Board's entry into the semi-final was to some extent a foregone conclusion. Armed with a strong forward line and supported by efficient linkmen, they were far too superior for the Eastern Command team their rivals in the quarter final. They defeated the latter 2-1 without much difficulty, but nobody expected them to put up such a valiant display of skill, technique and stamina as they did during their encounter against the defending champions. East Bengal Right from the beginning PSEB went on the offensive with Manjit playing havoc with the East Bengal defence. Manjit Singh played a rather opportunistic game and succeeded in creating quite a few intelligent openings which could have sealed East Bengal's fate. In fact, in the later stages of the match things came to such a pass that the entire defence of East Bengal kept a watch on Manjit.

Tarun Dev the young defender of the Calcutta team was given the responsibility of checking Manjit but he proved no match for his Punjabi rival and could do nothing but hang around at times making desperate attempts to snatch the ball from his boots. Tarun's failure to perform the job entrusted to him created further problems in the East Bengal defence. Palak who was generally manning the left flank had to come to his colleague's rescue and thus left a wide area unprotected for the other PSEB frontliners to cash in on. Thus the entire East Bengal defence became increasingly lop-sided with the progress of the match.

In the half-time the man on whom rested the greatest responsibility was Mihir Bose especially in the absence of the other key man in that position Amalraj, who is now preparing for the forthcoming Asian Games. But unfortunately for East Bengal Mihir was nowhere near his usual self. As a result East Bengal's game was growing more and more defence-oriented with only a few moves reaching the PSEB deep defence area before being thwarted by the latter's defenders.

In the second half also the Punjab team maintained their pressure with Manjit and Darshan Singh Gogoi forging a good combination among themselves in keeping the East Bengal



The DDSA officials having a discussion after the two teams refusal to play extra time

defenders busy.

Of the frontliners on the PSEB side mention must be made of Gogoi, Ravinder Singh and Bhupinder Singh who often switched positions among themselves to add variety to their team's attacks.

Late in the second half East Bengal made some improvement in their performance and launched a few well concerted attacks. Arup Das got a golden opportunity to score midway through the second half but shot the ball over an empty goal from a shakehand distance. Krishnagopal Choudhury also made a number of mistakes at the most crucial moments. The match ended goalless keeping the interest alive for the second leg encounter between the two teams.

Angry spectators ignite a bonfire



**M**OHUN BAGAN's performance in the first leg semi-final against Air India was not up to expectations despite an impressive beginning. They could not spread their dominance over the match and their frontliners failed to bring in novation into their attacks. They were somewhat surprised by the stiff resistance offered to them by the An India defenders. The only man who could have spelt danger for An India was Krishanu Dev the quick footed forward of the Calcutta outfit who with Shyam Thapa initiated some clever moves in front of the An India goalmouth. His through passes were heartbreakingly accurate and Mohun Bagan could have barged ahead when Shyam Thapa got an open chance to score off one such Krishanu lob. Both Surjit and Ulaganathan failed to perform their duties though they were fed with a number of measured passes by Krishanu, Shyam as well as Subrata Bhattacharya.

After Mohun Bagan's initial efforts proved futile An India slowly started coming into the game and gave Mohun Bagan's defenders a few anxious moments by launching powerful raids on their citadel. Subrata and Sarbajit Ghosh had a trying time tackling but both the defenders looked confident.

Instead of playing a positional game the An India defenders and forwards often interchanged their roles perhaps with a view to getting Mohun Bagan trapped on the wrong foot. But the Mohun Bagan defenders showed remarkable tenacity and did a neat job.

In the 15th minute of the second half Surjit Sengupta was replaced by Denis Williamson. There was little doubt that the withdrawal was called for but unfortunately for Mohun Bagan Williamson did not impress. However the Mohun Bagan display was much more spirited in the second half and An India was driven totally on the defensive in the first 15 minutes. Close marking by An India helped them considerably in the first session in thwarting the Mohun Bagan attacks. Ulaganathan was closely marked. However he was by no means worthy of so much importance and in fact An India pursued a wrong policy in choosing him as the spearhead of attacks. Of late Ulaganathan has developed a strange habit of running with the ball blindly down the wing.

Mohun Bagan's problems were further complicated by Krishanu's failure to reproduce the performance he had shown earlier in the first half. Even Thapa started showing signs of fatigue causing considerable trouble for the other players to maintain a combination in their game. The match ended goalless though the result should have convincingly been in Mohun Bagan's favour but for the erratic display by its frontliners and medios.



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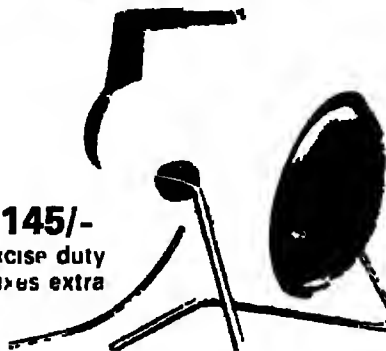
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## Regional round-up

### BOMBAY

#### Syed Modi felicitated

THE Greater Bombay Badminton Association at a function felicitated Syed Modi who won the gold medal for badminton at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane.

In his reply, the national champion Modi said, "This is the most important victory to date as it is my first major success on the international scene. The victory was all the more significant as I was not fit right from the time we landed in Brisbane. I had malaria and had lost two kilos, with the result I was weak. At one stage I was even thinking of pulling out of the singles."

Sounding an optimistic note, former international Nandu Natekar said, "Since Modi is 21, two years younger than Prakash Padukone when he first won the same title in Edmonton in 1978 we all are eagerly looking forward to good performances from you in the forthcoming Asian Games."

HARESH MUNWANI

### CALCUTTA

#### Muslim Institute T.T.

FOR the last 20 years or so the Muslim Institute of this city have been promoting many games, the most important of which are table tennis, snooker and billiards. This year with winter approaching, the Institute held their 22nd Table Tennis Tournament and as in previous years the response was overwhelming. The individual events were preceded by the team championships.

The teams were divided into four groups with the top team from each group qualifying for the semi-finals. Bijapur Town Club, L I C Sports Club, Y M C A 'B' and the powerful Y M C A 'A' team with Dipak Haldar and Soumen Ganguly in their ranks made it to the last four. The Young Men's Christian Association once again proved beyond doubt that they are the top table tennis playing club in the city, when both their teams registered easy victories in the semi-finals to make the final an all Y M C A affair. In a final played in friendly spirits, the 'A' team came out east winners.

The glamour event the Men's singles saw the near veteran Nachchu Mukherjee, coming up against Dipak Haldar. The former using flat smashes to a great advantage over-

came the challenge of Dipak Sinha in the semi-final after going down 21-7 in the first game. Nachchu showing flashes of his old brilliance beat Ashis Bhattacharjee to enter the final. However Nachchu was no match for Haldar in the final and went down in straight games.

DEREK O'BRIEN

#### Veteran footballer passes away

POST-Independence India witnessed many a football prodigy. We rarely do nowadays. And yet there is a tendency to forget the stars of yesteryears in favour of the present lot who are far inferior to past standards. One more player from the old school has left us. He is the former Mohun Bagan left-back Dr Sanmatha Dutta, who was once a tower of strength along with the "China Wall" Gostho Pal in the defence.

By profession Dutta was a doctor but football was in his blood. He loved his club Mohun Bagan. Senior members of the club will tell you so. For 13 years he served Bagan meticulously (1927-1939). Prior to joining Bagan in 1926, he donned the colours

of Napier (now Kidderpore) for one year as a second divisioner and later qualified to be a junior international.

Story has it that Bijoydas Bhaduri was instrumental in induction of Dr Dutta into Bagan. A couple of years later this dependable defender was nominated vice-captain and became the captain for three years thereafter. He achieved many milestones. In those days to get into the IFA team was not easy. It was officially considered the national side. Sanmatha Dutta actually can be credited as the first Indian captain—of course, under the British Raj. He toured South Africa in 1934.

Before going to the Berlin Olympics in 1936 his team played against a Chinese side. He hung his boots up three years later, but to the IFA and Mohun Bagan he was indispensable. In 1940, Dr Dutta was the Bagan football secretary and also a governing body member. There is no doubt that he was a true sportsman. Apart from soccer he showed enthusiasm for tennis and cricket and was attached to several sports organisations like the BHA, AAAWB, ABF and the Sports Council. Added to these, he was an efficient hockey umpire and football referee as well.



The Dargeesing Association of the Bharat Scouts and Guides launched a programme for selling flowers in order to raise funds for sending a representative contingent to participate in the All India Jamboree to be held in Bodhi Gaya in December this year. Flowers were sold in this hall station by a small group of scouts. The first flower was bought by Srimati Pande and His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal Mr B D Pande. On the first few days of the sale, which will continue to the beginning of November, about Rs 1400 was collected.

as the president of the Calcutta Referees' Association

Dutta leaves behind a hosts of friends and admirers. He was ailing for quite sometime and succumbed on October 14 at a ripe old age of 73. A great player. A great loss. We pray that he has eternal rest.

SUBHASH SARKAR

## MADRAS

### Kerala girls win in style

It was a dream come true for the Kerala girls. They had finished runners up in the All India Inter University Basketball Championship three previously, but victory had always eluded them. They seemed doomed to be always the bridesmaids, never the brides.

But they finally shrugged off the bridesmaid tag and emerged champions in a most emphatic manner at the University Union Indoor Stadium recently. They won all their three matches in the four team round robin—the other teams involved were Calicut, the South Zone runners up, Gurn Nanak Dev, North Zone winners and Delhi North Zone runners up. Kerala had just a few days before won the South Zone championship. Gurn Nanak Dev were the holders of the all India title while Calicut who were runners up last year retained that position this time. GNDU slipped to third while Delhi finished fourth.

Predictably, the standard was a bit higher than what was witnessed in the South Zone championship. Also the fluctuating fortunes in some of the matches added spice to the flavour of the contest.

In the first match Calicut scored a thrilling 55-49 victory over GNDU. The North Zone team called the tune in the first half at the end of which they led 31-23. But Calicut staged a remarkable rally in the second half even as little went right for the GNDU. Spurred on by fine displays by Ashe, Ancey and Celine Thomas, Calicut by cleverly switching tactics, raced to a 51-39 lead. The most that GNDU could do after that was to narrow down the gap a little before the final gong. It was sweet revenge for Calicut who had lost to GNDU in the all India final last year by a single point.

In the other match, Kerala were too strong for Delhi. It was clearly a mismatch between the South Zone winners and Delhi as the final score (78-33) would illustrate. At half time, Kerala led 36-21 and they increased the margin in the second half. Raju Thambi with 22 points was the star of Kerala's easy win.

The next day of the competition was again marked by a thrilling

encounter. In the North Zone final, Delhi were outplayed by GNDU and were beaten by over 35 points. Now Delhi put up an inspired show. At half time, in fact, they were up 27-22. The issue continued to hang in the balance for long and till four minutes before the final whistle, Delhi were still ahead. Then Gurn Nanak Dev levelled at 47. Necta with 24 points had done the bulk of the basketting for GNDU but in the last couple of minutes it was Panycen who notched up a couple of quick baskets to enable her team to surge ahead. The final score read GNDU 52, Delhi 47.

In the other match, Kerala asserted their superiority over Calicut in no uncertain terms. Kerala who had overwhelmed Calicut 74-40 in the South Zone final a few days earlier, again had things their own way as they raced to a 62-34 victory after leading 34-18 at half time. Raju Thambi was again the best of the Kerala girls on view, notching up 18 points.

So now the issue boiled down to a straight fight between the two zonal winners. But there was really no contest on the final day. Kerala were just too strong and swept aside the frantic challenge from the defending champions. After leading 32-21 at half time, they went from strength to strength and finally notched up a 70-34 victory.

Again Raju Thambi was in the forefront scoring 20 points, while Necta, who was easily Gurn Nanak Dev's best player, was the top scorer for her team with 18 points. The Kerala girls were brimming with confidence after their two fine victories earlier and they exhibited fine teamwork changing the pace of the game every now and then with the result that the Haryana girls were often caught on the wrong foot.

### Loyola on top

THE Dr. A. L. Mudaliar meet is the premier inter-collegiate athletics competition in the city. The event keenly awaited by every athlete and this year's meet too held at the Rajaratnam Stadium generated a lot of interest. Traditionally, the two colleges always bidding for top honours have been Loyola and Christian. This time Christian were not in full strength with the college being closed because of the water scarcity. Thus the meet turned out to be a gift for Loyola, as the final figures would show. Loyola finished on top with 138 points, while the next best was Pachayappa's with just 29. Christian finished third with 14.

Two athletes shared the honours of the meet. On the first day, Sudendra Reddy, a sickly built 21-year old second year BA student from Loyola won both the shot put and discus events. In the former event, he erased an 8 year old record standing

in the name of Nandakishore of Christian, who had thrown the iron ball 12.45 metres. Reddy's heave was a mighty one of 12.67 metres. Etrol Hart, also of Loyola, dominated the second day. The third year six footer literature student, also erased an 8 year old record standing in the name of Chako Jacob in the decathlon event. Jacob's mark of 5,356 points was pushed aside as Hart smugged towards his new mark of 5,824 points. This also bettered his own university mark of 5,478 points set in 1980.

ABINAM HANU

## INDORE

### Upset in Varsity football

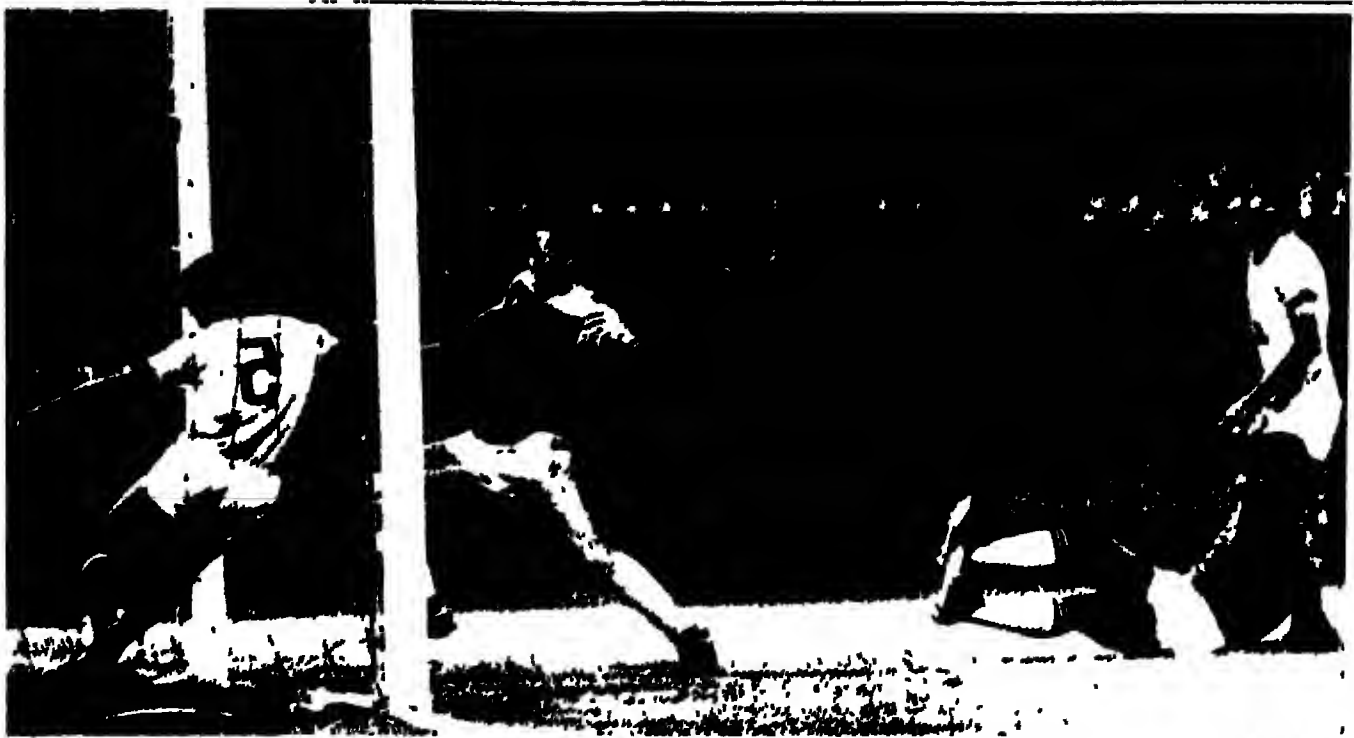
HOSTS and underdogs Indore University surprised everyone when they clinched the West Zone football title for the first time here. Runners up in 1970-71 and then again in 1973-74 Indore achieved this rare honour after a lean period. The greatest upset was the ouster of both last year's champions Vikram and also runners up Bombay. Rather they were pushed back to the fourth and third position and thus they failed to qualify for the ensuing inter-zonal at Ranchi.

Jiwaji were runners up this year and qualified with Indore for the inter-zonals. Indore began with a bang when they took care of last year's semi-finalists Jodhpur in the quarter final. Later they defeated both Vikram and Bombay and drew with Jiwaji to come on top in the West Zone.

If Indore's victory over champions Vikram was considered a fluke then their solitary goal victory over runners up Bombay was no flash in the pan. Playing attacking soccer, Indore went into the lead through Unesh Talonsile. Thereafter Indore attacked and never fell into defence.

The final against Jiwaji was a thrilling 1-1 draw. Steven Anthony who played as centre forward for Pune is a Nigerian. He meted out a model lesson for the Indians as to how opportunist a centre forward ought to be. One important thing to be noted was that most of the 22 participating teams were assisted by foreign students who were mostly from the Middle East and the African countries.

Some time back the proposal was discussed whether foreign students be allowed to take part in the Inter-Varsity tournaments. It was felt that the introduction of foreign students would help Indian Universities to improve their standards. But it was observed that with the differences of political ideology in the Middle East,



Action from the match between the Calcutta XI and Kuban XI played at Delhi

SUNIL MALHOTRA

sport too would be affected. For instance, when Indore played Pune the match had to be abandoned after the breather when Pune conceded the match. The reason being that one Iranian from Indore and three Iranians from Pune began quarreling on the field due to pro Khomeini and anti Khomeini sentiments.

SUJEET MOHANTY

## DELHI

### Kuban Club win

**E**XCEPT for a goal by Prasanta Banerjee, there was again little to enthuse over in the display of India's Asian Games soccer probables who played under the label "Calcutta Eleven" in an exhibition match against the Kuban Club from the Soviet Union. The visitors who themselves put up a mediocre show, won by two goals to one.

The 60,000 who turned up at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on the Sunday night must have wondered when exactly our footballers will touch their best form. The game was barely eight minutes old when Bhas kar Ganguly stretched to stop a shot by Ploshnik but failed to grip the ball. Kolesov ran in to hustle it over the line.

The goal showed the Indian defence in poor light. First, Ploshnik should not have been allowed the liberty of a shot. Second, Ganguly should not have allowed the ball out

of his grip because the shot was the type that any good goalkeeper should have saved without a fuss.

There were a few occasions when attacks were built by our men on the wings. But, as usual, our finishing was not sharp enough. However, full marks to Prasanta Banerjee for his goal in the 44th minute. For the way he dodged through the defence and shot low and hard into the farther corner of the net. That was the only time Pilgot was beaten that night.

All those mighty roars from the biggest sporting crowd Delhi has ever seen, failed to inspire the "Calcutta Eleven" to produce another goal like Prasanta's. But at the other end, Ploshnik, in the 52nd minute, snatched victory for Kuban. Again a ball, this time from Laguda, was stopped by Ganguly but not gathered firmly and Ploshnik did the rest.

**O**UR footballers' defeat came barely a couple of hours after our girls were beaten in a women's hockey Test by the Soviet Union at the Shivaji Stadium, 2-1. However, the defeat failed to change the result of the six Test series, which India won by four matches to two. This was the only Test played outside Punjab.

Both goals for the Soviet Union were scored by Krasnikova, one of the most skilful forwards in contemporary women's hockey. For India, the dashing Rajbir Kaur was the scorer. The experienced Krasnikova had also distinguished herself earlier by scoring a hat-trick in the fourth Test at Sangrur, Punjab. Judging from the overall result of the series, the Indian girls have

given concrete evidence of the progress they have made in the pre Asian Games watching camps and tours.

### Fun and games at C.K. Nayudu Trophy

**T**HIS year's North Zone C.K. Nayudu Trophy (Under 22) tournament held at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla grounds was in the news more for the disputes that were decided in the four walls of the committee room rather than the cricket out in the middle. Two teams, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi in chronological order, were disqualified for fielding ineligible players.

In Himachal Pradesh, who are building up a case for full fledged membership of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, it was a big setback. They are at present associate members.

The committee upheld the appeal of Jammu and Kashmir against the eligibility of Bitt Mohan, for Himachal Pradesh. This lad, who had turned out for Kashmir last season, had not gone through the transfer formalities.

Harvina protested against the eligibility of Rahul Sharma, arguing that he was older than the stipulated 22 years. Whoever is at fault, such matters do little credit to the administration of the associations found guilty. However, when the selectors met, they named Delhi's K. P. Bhas kar, a stylish batsman, as captain of the North Zone team. Some consolation indeed for talented players who

found their team "scratched" for no fault of their's. Gucharat Singh and Maninder Singh, who were busy helping North Zone in the Duleep Trophy, may also find a place in the team if they are available.

Punjab won the tournament, beating Haryana by virtue of their first innings lead. In Balkar Singh who scored a century (110) they have found a star batsman.

The summarised scores were: Punjab 290 (Rajesh Rai 34, Balkar Singh 110, Rajnish Rai 40 not out, Balkrishan 5 for 64, Mukesh 2 for 66, Mohinder Khanna 2 for 53) and 164 for 3 decl. (Roop Basant 67, Kamal Bhakim 51) Haryana 157 (Billu Ram 49, Rajnish Rai 3 for 39, Raj Kumar 3 for 17) and 51 for 2.

A C CORRESPONDENT

## PUNE

### Weightlifting for novices

THE iron men of Greater Bombay regained the team title by a slender margin of just two points over holders Pune in the Maharashtra State novices weightlifting championships hosted by the Pune District Weightlifting Association (PDWA). The championships were held at the Behman Physical Culture Home in Pune.

In a keen competition 13 year old Bashir Shaikh of Sangli (Maharashtra) emerged the most accomplished lifter totalling a fantastic 155 kgs in the 52 kgs flyweight division and was adjudged the best lifter of the meet. This school boy surprised the packed audience when he clean and jerked 95 kgs on his way to victory.

Out of the 8 weight groups Bombay claimed top positions in the middle and heavy, Pune in the light and lightweight, Thane in the 45 kgs (new weight group) and feather while Sangli and Kolhapur in the fly and bantam weight groups.

Well over 60 competitors from the above districts took part in the championships conducted under the supervision of Mr B. R. Fisher, the PDWA secretary.

### Double for Chandrasekhar

RICHING national champion V Chandrasekhar of Tamil Nadu earned a double crown in the 27th Defence Accounts Recreation Club table tennis tournament held at the Modern School Badminton Complex (the venue of the 1st Indian Masters Tournament) in Pune.

He retained the men's singles title for the fourth year in a row defeating Rajat Kathuria of Delhi in a four

game tussle and later teamed up with Bombay's Nishit Vyas to down Rajat Kathuria and Sudhtr Phadke in straight games.

In spite of being a game down and twice four points in arrears in the third games Chandra taking advantage of his anti-spin rubber and fore hand top spin reeled off a series of points to clinch the third game after being level 20-20 and win the deciding easily for the title.

### Small shuttle star

JUST when 12 year-old Bula Chowdhury the Calcutta youngster was winning the hearts of many breaking two national swimming records at the pre-Asiads in Delhi, 15 year old school girl Deepthi Thanekar of Pune who had the distinction of winning all major titles this year, was being awarded the "Ficne Lalpakhan Trophy" and was unanimously awarded the best badminton player of Maharashtra. According to Suresh Phadkar (Hon. Secretary of the M.B.A.) the decision to this effect was taken by the executive council of the Maharashtra Badminton Association which met in Pune recently.

RAHUL CHANDAWAHKAR

## PATNA

### Bihar Bridge

THE Ranchi Union Club annexed the Bihar Bridge title organised here at the Lalal Lapat Rai Memorial Hall.

The Ranchi team maintained its lead right from the Swiss League of eight rounds and entered the Super League stage triumphantly. They were followed by a young Bokaro Steel side which, along with Sindri and Danapur, also qualified for the Super League. The Union Club team were beaten only once in the Swiss League stage by the team led by D. D. K. Chaudhary. But Ranchi could not be prevented from bagging the Team of Four Duplicate title. Bokaro consoled themselves with a deserving runners position. The Ranchi team was represented by M/s P. Agrawal, U. D. Rungta, P. K. Chaudhary and S. B. Ghosh.

The Team of Four progressive event was bagged by the Bihar Finance Commissioner Mr B. P. Verma's team with sustained and efficient card play. With 168 match points B. P. Verma's team created a new record in Bihar Bridge.

Messrs S. P. Singh and K. D. Bhagat stole the limelight in the Pairs event.

SAMIR SEN GUPTA

## HYDERABAD

### Raja Bhalindra speaks

IT is not the size of the country that matters in building up sports but the facilities available to train sportsmen and organise sports meets. "India is lagging behind in this regard and hence we are handicapped in the world of sport," feels Raja Bhalindra Singh, president of the Indian Olympic Association.

Raja Bhalindra Singh was a special invitee at an award giving function of the Andhra Pradesh Sports Council held in October. He gave away awards to many sportsmen—both boys and girls—who brought laurels to the State at the national level. He also presented mementos to those who represented the country from Andhra Pradesh at the international level.

Raja Bhalindra Singh congratulated the Andhra Pradesh Sports Council for showing a good gesture to sportsmen and sportswomen who served the State in general and the country in particular.

M. S. Shankar

## TRIVANDRUM

### Kaumudi Trophy

INDIA international custodian Abdul D'Silva put up a brilliant show under the bat to help Cochin Port Trust win the handsome Kerala Kaumudi Trophy defeating the holders Premier Tyres, Kalamassery 2-1 in the final of the 10th Inter Club Football Tournament held at the Lal Bahadur Stadium, Quilon. All the goals came in the first half.

The winners shot into the lead when left winger Vijaya Kumar made no mistake off a cross from right inside Bhaskar. In the 15th minute right winger Asokan increased the lead to 2-0 after Vijaya Kumar did the spade work near the goal mouth. Stung by the two goals, Premier Tyres soon bounced back into the game and inside left Suresh Babu scored off in a goalmouth melee to reduce the margin to 2-1 at resumption. Premiers created many an anxious moment all through the second half and particularly in the final ten minutes but Andri stood in their way.

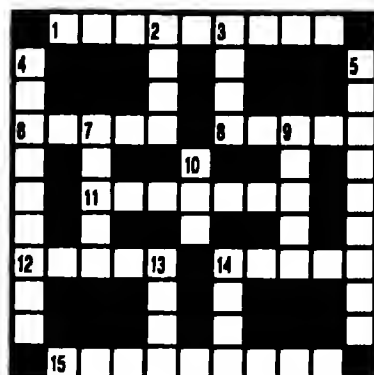
The Kerala Minister for Labour Mr K. Sivadasan distributed the prizes at a function presided over by the Municipal Chairman Mr K. Thankappan.

M. P. SURESH

# Crossword

BMUDAR

170



## ACROSS

- 1 Cricketing knight who ends with a weight (3 6)
- 6 Founder of the kyo kushinkai school of karate has a maternal ending (5)
- 8 Stale of a table tennis game when the score is 20-20, returns (5)
- 11 Former wicket-keeper of England begins with a conjunction but goes backwards (7)
- 12 What Madhav Mantri is of Sunil Gavaskar (5)
- 14 Qadir sent the Aussies into this in the series just concluded returns (1, 4)
- 15 Indian badminton champion (1 8)

## DOWN

- 2 This Mandlikova lost in the finals, of Wimbledon in 1981 (4)
- 3 Cricketer who as it is said, made up for his father's bungling for England (4)
- 4 Squash champion who retired from competitive play just a few months back (5 4)
- 5 This cricketer nicknamed 'DK' proved to be a surprise bowler for Pakistan against England (8, 1)
- 7 The special body set up to supervise the running of the Asian Games (1 1, 1 1, 1)
- 9 This badminton player of India has name beginning with a loop (4, 1)
- 10 This form of wrestling is catching on in India (3)
- 13 Sportsmen—themselves to improve performances, returns (4)
- 14 A synonym for touch and also the first name for the English County cricketer Cook (4)

Excellent: 16-15, Good: 14-13, Fair: 12-11.

# Question box

Sudhir Vaidya

Subhash Wadhawan, Karnal.

Q What is the Test batting record of David Gower?

A At the conclusion of the three Test series against India in England in 1982, Gower's Test batting record stood at 41 Tests, 69 innings, seven times not out, 2,700 runs, 200 not out as his highest score, 43.54 average, four centuries, 13 half centuries and five zeroes.

Appu Dewanja, Bhrilai

Q Who are the fortunate Indian cricketers who have got the credit of scoring the most runs in an over and also in a day's play?

A Sandeep Patil scored a maximum of 24 runs in one over in the second Test against England at Manchester in 1982 and Sunil Gavaskar holds the record for the most runs in a day scoring a maximum of 179 runs on the fifth day of the fourth Test against England at The Oval in 1979.

Tony K. T. Trichur

Q What is Rodney Marsh's date of birth? Also give me Jim Higgs' birth date.

A Rodney Marsh was born on 11 November 1947 and Jim Higgs on 11 July, 1950.

Prem Jangwar and Siba Prasad, Malkangiri

Q How many Test centuries have Mohinder Amarnath, Sunil Gavaskar, and Brijesh Patel scored for India?

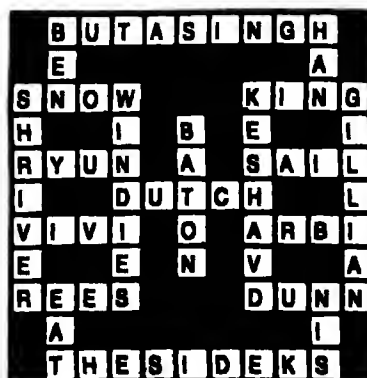
A Mohinder Amarnath has scored two centuries in Tests for India and Sunil Gavaskar and Brijesh Patel have each hit one Test century.

Chabin Chatterjee, Uttarpara

Q Could you please let me know who was Bengal's leading English cricket commentator who died in Bombay and what was his record as a commentator/journalist?

A Berry Sarbadhikary was the leading cricket commentator from Bengal, who covered more than 125 Tests all over the world as a commentator/journalist.

## SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 169



S Hasan Feroze, Allgarh

Q What is the Test record of Maurice Tate of England? Has he established any world record?

A Maurice Tate of England has played in 39 Tests, 52 innings, five times not out, 1198 runs, 100 as his highest score, 25.48 average, one hundred five fifties, he has also captured 155 wickets for 4055 runs average 26.16. On seven occasions did he take five wickets in an innings and once 10 wickets in a match.

Kurban Ukkai, Calcutta

Q Who was the South African captain during the 1969-70 series against Australia?

A Al Bacher

Keshab Chandra Sethi, Tatan

Q In how many Tests did Kapil Dev complete the double of 1000 runs and 100 wickets?

A In 25 Tests he reached both the marks of 1000 runs and 100 wickets in the same Test his 25th.

Manik Pal, Burnpur

Q How many ducks has Sunil Gavaskar scored in Tests?

A Seven in 78 Tests, at the conclusion of the series against England in 1982 in England.

Barun Chowdhury, Port Blair

Q Who was England's first captain in Tests?

A, James Lillywhite

Continued on page 42

# Quiz

Ranjit Chhose

## QUESTIONS

Which 'World Cup or world championship (men's/women's senior/junior) did the following places host in the year noted against each?

- 1 Ecuador 1982
- 2 Novi Sad 1981
- 3 Dortmund 1982
- 4 Tokyo, 1981
- 5 Munich, 1982
- 6 Mexico City 1981
- 7 Columbia 1982
- 8 Kuala Lumpur 1981
- 9 England, 1982
- 10 Montreal 1981

## ANSWERS

- 1 World Swimming Championships
- 2 World TT Championships
- 3 Men's World Volleyball Championship
- 4 Women's World Cup Volleyball Championship
- 5 World Boxing Championships
- 6 World Cup Swimming Championships
- 7 Men's World Basketball Championship
- 8 World Cup Badminton Championships
- 9 World Track Cycling Championships
- 10 World Cup Boxing Championship







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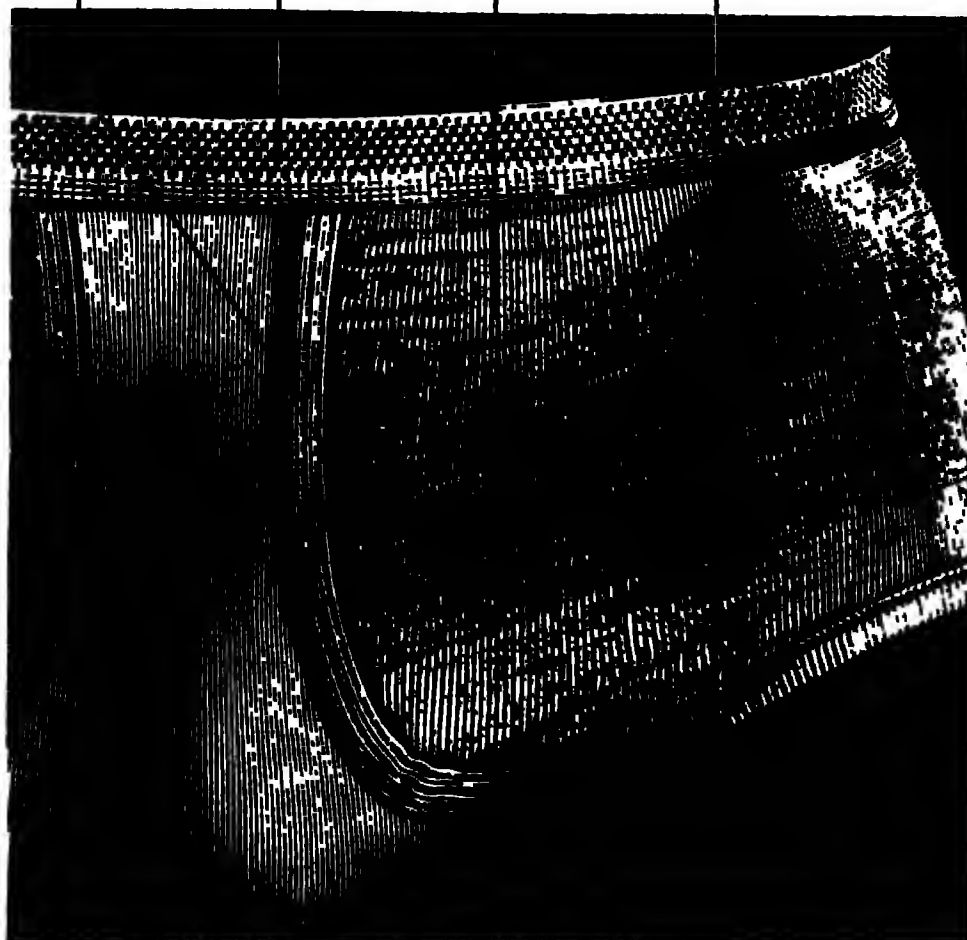
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**15 REST OF INDIA MAKE IT**  
Thanks to Srikanth, Rest of India made it in the end with some powerful batting, though Delhi came pretty close to proving that they were better than all of India put together BISHAN SINGH BEDI reports



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Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sarcar  
Correspondents Bombay Harsh Murwani, Madras Ashok Kamath  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Empty words

I AM attempting to express briefly in words my very strong feelings about some very important aspects of sports in India. The two incidents that I am mentioning reflect adversely on the quality of our cricketing intellect and the quality of the reporting media. Both have deteriorated woefully in recent times. Language and expression may have improved but, unfortunately this has been at the cost of quality and wisdom. Even the induction of ex-cricketers into the radio and commentary boxes, with the possible exception of Pataudi, has not done much to improve matters. Critics now play stylishly with empty words and statistics.

Sports is, to my mind, the embodiment of all that imparts meaning to life and it hurts immensely to observe that drop in the standard of several aspects of it. It is with a desire to highlight this lack of genuine content in most matters relating to Indian cricket that this letter is being written.

K MURALI,  
Bombay

### Exercise in futility?

WE are wondering if the Asiad at Delhi is an exercise in futility. What purpose will it serve other than being a sports extravaganza? Truly speaking, the Asiad is being held to bolster the dwindling image of the authorities in power. There are not many high expectations of this event. When the whole affair of it is messy and is the victim of many problems, how can we hope to make it a success and satisfy the competitions from other countries? The whole thing may turn out to be a big farce.

PRAHLAD GHOSH,  
Calcutta

### Remarkable facet

A REMARKABLE facet of the triumphs over Sri Lanka during the one day internationals was that they were achieved without Gavaskar and Vishwanath at all. It is a tribute to Kapil Dev's young side that they won with such considerable ease without India's two topmost batsmen. It is a happy augury for the future. Yet, I do not think that India can do without Sunil Gavaskar at the Test level for another five years or so.

Even though seasoned critics have warned that these victories can be deceptive, I think Kapil's Bangalore team will be able to hold its own against Pakistan, Australia, England and New Zealand. What we now need is another howler to support Kapil and Doshi.

VIJAY S CHORGHADI,  
Pune

### Request

I DON'T think that the Indians have forgotten the last disastrous to England by the Indian (oops, Bombay) team which was polluted by the so-called selectors and our own captain Sunil Gavaskar. And now, when another series is just a few weeks away, I would like to request the selectors to avoid Test play and regionalism which was so rampant on the last overseas visit. Seeing the might of the present Pakistani side, we should try to field a better team than the one which represented India last time. Otherwise, Pakistan will surely reduce us to pulp.

MD JAWAID IBBAR  
Bijapur

### Final say

THANK you very much for the interview with K K Srikkanth in the 20 October issue. It only his batting was as disciplined as his interview.

V K Lakshmanan,  
Tirupur

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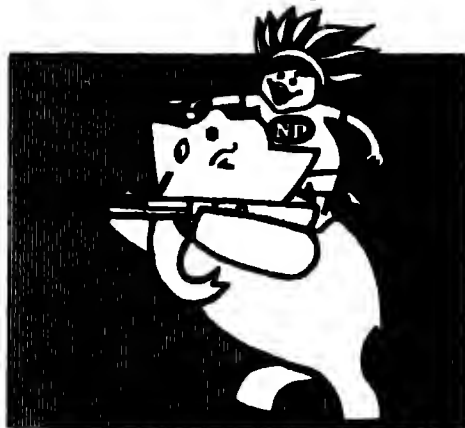
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## Editor's page

a fairly comprehensive survey made on behalf of this magazine, one of the questions asked was "Whom do you consider most competent to write on a sporting event?" Overwhelmingly the reply was "A retired player." This seems reasonable, yet in a seminar held during a Test in Calcutta a few months ago, the Indian captain made a contrary though perfectly valid remark.

At that time players did not sign a contract which forbade them from commenting publicly on matches during a home series, and Sunil Gavaskar was sharing a sports page with a retired cricketer of undisputed repute.

The reports that these two gentlemen wrote on any given day's play were to say the least "at variance" and when someone in the audience questioned if Gavaskar had noticed this phenomenon, he replied "yes, we are obviously not writing about the same game."

A few years earlier another Indian captain had made a similar remark about a jour-

nalist, and it is needless to say that at times journalists have found many a captain's strategy incomprehensible.

One may therefore be permitted to hazard the following conclusion. Retired players, present captains, professional journalists et al may or may not know what they are talking about, and if the latter is the case, airing one's views will soon bring discredit and the ultimate discredit to a writer is not that he is not believed but that he is not read. If all this seems somewhat confusing, at least one aspect of the player-journalist relationship is pretty clear.

They are unlikely to co-exist for long in perfect harmony. The critic and the performer will often not see eye to eye. They can at best meet in cautious informality, and yet one cannot do without the other. The player can only play to a limited audience, the writer and commentator can reach many more to create a wider interest and it is the last which truly supports the game, which in its turn supports, the player and the writer.

Like any sportsman, a writer will also make mistakes of judgement but it would be



churlish for a reader or the object of a "mistake" to be irritated unless subsequent views and facts are misrepresented or manipulated solely to justify these mistakes.

Team-mates are not fooled when a batsman bowled by a straightforward deliver returns with excuses ranging from the "fly in the eye" to the "late dip and movement in the ball." Similarly, unduly biased criticism may annoy those who are newly exposed to comment, but eventually only questions the credibility of the writer. Still, if it seems difficult enough to convince many a player that those of yesteryear could have been at par, how much more difficult to convince him to give attention to those who have never played the game?

It is too much to expect that all critics will be true to their code, and that all performers will ignore what is irrelevant and yet be prepared to take cognisance of what may be appropriate or pertinent.



*C. S. Srinivasan*

# CRICKETERS AND JOURNALISTS HOW WELL DO THEY MIX?

AMRIT MATHUR investigates

**C**RICKET journalists and players see the game from different, often opposite viewpoints. Sometimes this difference becomes so wide that the battle between cricketers and journalists appear more bitter than the bat/ball tussle.

The players feel that the journalists don't know what they are writing about. Most critics, the players point out with apparent glee, have never played the game. Obvious implication: the players only are competent enough to comment. Another grouse is against reports, which the players aver are ill informed, biased, motivated, even mischievous. Moreover, almost all players reel off instances when they have been wildly misquoted in interviews.

Actually this feeling of antipathy between players and journalists is mutual—the critics too have a long list of complaints. One players are excessively touchy, can't tolerate criticism. Consequently they expect journalists to be reverential. Two: they shout their mouths off and make irresponsible statements to the Press. If these later prove embarrassing, the player conveniently disowns them. Three and this is most important: players at times, are amazingly innocent about the finer points of the game themselves. They may not be able to express themselves either. So why all the fuss?

To obtain both sides of the picture, SPORTSWORLD spoke to cricketers and journalists and asked them the following questions:

I. What is the role of the cricket journalist?

II. Are they competent to fulfil this role?

III. Are journalists fair/biased? How do they compare with their counterparts abroad?

IV. Any bad experiences? Player misbehaved, journalist was absolutely incorrect or misquoted the players.

V. Responsibility of journalist in highlighting players' misconduct on the field?

VI. How much power do journalists wield? Can they make/mislead a player, or push someone?

**K. N. PRAEHU** (of the "Times of India", wrote his first piece almost four decades back. Has covered 120 Test matches)

The journalist has to observe, report, interpret. He assesses situations and performances in the light of what happens on the field. The question about competence is an age-old war between players and journalists. Artists complain about art critics and cricketers about cricket journalists. It is always good if you have played the game but it is not necessary. What is vital is understanding. G. K. Reddy writes about politics because he knows what he is writing about. He is not a politician.

To hold the view that only cricketers can write competently is wrong. Except Gavaskar and Tiger Pataudi the others are unable to write their copy without help. Many have to be tutored. I had problems while writing a book with Wadekar. He had nothing to offer. Basically, a cricketer can't easily take on a job for which he hasn't been trained.

To my mind, our national dailies are quite fair and competent in their comments. They are as good as anywhere else. There is no doubt about this—I have seen the Press operate abroad.

I haven't had a "bad experience" with any player. Mainly because I stay away from the dressing room. I hate quoting players unless it is for a light piece. I do my job and they do theirs. Moreover, after Pataudi, I feel a generation gap with the players anyway. I think the Press takes a lot of bullshit from the players. The cricketers forget undue praise but not undue criticism.

If a player misbehaves on the field I blast him. For instance when Gavaskar played left-handed I thought that was bloody awful.

I don't think the Press is capable of boosting anyone's career. When Ghulam Parkar and Suru Nayak were picked for England who supported them? The Press can highlight the potential of a player. That's all I can take credit for writing about Vishwanath when he was a youngster. But I have also written about other

players who did not make the grade. **KISHORE BHIMANI** (of "The Statesman", has covered 50 Tests in 10 years of his journalistic career.)

Everyone knows the score before sunset so the journalist's job is to analyse. The writer has a great responsibility towards his readers because nowadays the relationship between him and his readers is very personalised. Readers have their favourites among journalists. For example my readers want to know what I think about the game.

A journalist is also a watchdog over the game—whether it's the selectorial exercise, general organisation, the umpiring or whatever. A journalist cannot permit the ill to go on. The cricket team is very important to the average Indian. He might not be able to recall the names of the cabinet ministers but will know the names of the cricketers. I wouldn't like to comment about the competence of Indian journalists.

Once Tony Greig abused me in public. His team had scored 149 runs in a day's play and I had criticised him. I said he had put 80,000 people to sleep and ought to be in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for this. He shouted at me and called me ignorant. Later, he apologised.

When a player misbehaves you must take it in perspective. The game is tougher, the stakes are higher, the tension is greater. One's nerves can snag in such conditions. In fact, it is bound to happen. Money consciousness is more now.

You have cricketers who sell music cassettes, Botham endorsed ice cream. Greig advertised underwear. He was the ultimate professional. If he smiled he wanted Rs 10 for that.

I can understand why players behave badly. Still, I will give them stick because I have a responsibility in correcting excessive bad behaviour.

The Press is important as everyone wants to maintain a good image and as the journalist has his nose to the ground he can spot and highlight potential. Nothing more. Nobody makes or breaks a player. The audi-

ence is very mature They don't get fooled

**RAJAN BALA** (has been writing since 1966-67,

The journalist does more than report The reader wants his observations This is because of competition from other media The radio broadcasts to housewives and TV is a constant threat So the people want something different

If someone questions the competence of journalists we could also question the knowledge of some players If they all knew the finer points of the game, wouldn't they all be captains? Once Hammond questioned Caidus' credentials Caidus said in reply 'If I have to choose between a good and a bad egg I needn't lay it'

I think Indian journalists are pretty fair But of course when they are writing interpretative articles on the trends of the game their views and those of the players could be different In fact, the better Indian journalists are far better than the ones abroad The Indian journalist doesn't depend on quotes from the captain or the players They maintain their own independence to comment

I have never had any bad experience with a player I have never quoted a player in my life What he has to say is not important In fact we don't mix socially with the players Even on tours we don't meet them, neither do we travel together We have nothing to do with them

When a journalist sees misconduct on the field, he must criticise it The game is the most important thing If any cricketer says he is more important, then it's wrong And he comes in for some stick

No journalist tries to push anybody Maybe if a senior journalist feels that a player is good, someone might take a second look at him Water finds its own level and so do players The bad players just collapse Ultimately it's the performances on the field that matter I can't tell you of a journalist who can play God but I can tell you about a couple of players who do

**SUNIL GAVASKAR**

As I see it, a cricket journalist reports the action on the field and also comments on the game Some bias is natural and understandable At the same time it's important that the journalist understands what he is writing about Many times we have the problem not so much of incompetent but ill-informed writing

When I became captain I made an arrangement with the Press I said you must come to me every evening and check specially if you have any doubts

Ill-informed criticism does great harm to the morale of the players Consider the case say of a youngster who has just started his career If the Press were to wrongly write that he has dropped a catch when he actual-



Gundappa Vishwanath displays his class during India's tour of England earlier this year Gavaskar claims that there was an attempt to create a rift between him and his brother-in-law

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## Correct Answers

- Q 1 Which of these countries donated the cup for the World Cup Hockey Championship?  
A 1 Pakistan
- Q 2 In which year did Roger Bannister run the first under-four minute mile?  
A 2 1954
- Q 3 What is the maximum number of runs scored by both teams in a cricket Test Match?  
A 3 1981
- Q 4 In the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games in which event did Hawa Singh win a gold medal?  
A 4 Heavy weight boxing
- Q 5 Which famous Wimbledon Tennis Champion had also won the World Table-tennis Singles Championship?  
A 5 Fred Perry
- Q 6 How many countries participated in the last Asiad at Bangkok?  
A 6 27

## Consolation Prizes

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Since there were not enough correct entries by the  
extended deadline of 1st November this is the final list of consolation prize winners

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ly hasn't, it can be very damaging. The bloke is going to read the report, feel demoralised. His performance is affected and the entire team suffers.

Similarly, sometimes things happen on the field which only the captain knows about. The critics, however perceptive, can't fathom every move. For instance, I might change a bowler and this may appear strange from the Press box. But I know why I did that. Perhaps the bowler wanted to exploit the rough, or even the breeze and bowl from the other end. To understand these things from far is not easy.

That is why I tell people before passing judgement, especially if there is any doubt, come and check with me. If the explanation appears unsatisfactory then you are entitled to your opinion.

The Press plays a very important role in making or breaking a player. Perhaps not so much in India as in England where some journalists are very highly thought of. If they say somebody is good, it really matters. My favourite is Frank Keating. In India too there are many who are fairly good. There are bad ones also but I'd rather not name them.

Speaking for myself, I can say that I have had an OK Press. Actually I have reached a stage where I ignore things. What did hurt me however was that during the Packer affair I was called a "traitor". That was most unfair for there I was playing for my country facing deliveries whizzing past my face—and this is what I got. I stopped talking to the Press for a while but realised that as the captain I must put my team's point across so I had to speak.

More examples of bad journalism don't come to my mind offhand. Nothing very damaging has been written about me though some journalists have tried to drive a wedge between me and other players like Bishan, Vishy, Venkat. These articles have become more frequent in recent times. I don't know why. There could be sustained propaganda to chip away at me and undermine me, you know. But I don't bother because for every single critic there are 1000 admirers.

#### ARUN LAL

Besides describing the action on the field, the journalist has to comment on the game. It is not possible to categorically term the Press as competent or otherwise. I think we have people who do fine work as also there are people who write incompetently.

For a person to write knowledgeably I think it is a great help if he has played the game himself. He might have studied and watched cricket for many years but still there are certain things that only a player can understand. That's why personally, I would always prefer to read a report which has been written by a cricketer.

I have not been exposed to the

media as much as other players. Yet there are instances of incorrect writing that I can remember. Normally I field at first slip and many times it's been reported in the papers that I have dropped catches. Actually, what are dubbed catches from far are, mostly, either edges that haven't carried or ones which were too wide. Sometimes even though second slip has dropped a catch I am blamed!

Then, recently I was misquoted by *Sportsworld* itself. After I was picked for the Indian team the journalist asked me whether my ambition was achieved. I said no, as there are so many things I want to achieve. I said ambition is not 'just' to play Test cricket. I want to do well and suc-

dards and it's through his eyes that millions hold a certain cricketer in varying esteem.

I've often heard it said that some journalists have never held a bat so how can they write competently? I believe that is a load of rubbish because cricket is a thinking game as well. A player learns in the middle and by watching as well. Similarly the journalist learns by experience and his ability to grasp the finer points of the game. By and large I think the journalists are fair but there is always the odd troublemaker who leaves a bad taste in the mouth. You have to judge a journalist by his knowledge and his ability to put it across.



Former England captain Mike Brearley holds an impromptu Press conference with Indian journalists during the Bombay Jubilee Test. He had no problems with the Fourth Estate in this country although his predecessor Tony Greig once apologised for an outburst.

ceed too. Moreover as far as I am concerned, cricket is not everything in life. Imagine my horror when I saw the interview in print. It just said in the headline "My ambition is not to play Test cricket." As bad as that! The article never explained anything else. The meaning was completely changed. Everybody I met asked me about this interview. And I had quite a time explaining.

I think the Press plays a great role in a cricketer's career, specially a youngster's. Only through the Press does he get noticed and people become aware of him. Of course there is a limit to what the Press can do for anyone because ultimately it's the performances that count. I don't suppose the selectors are really swayed by Press reports.

#### DILIP DOSHI

In my view the role of a cricket journalist in today's India is an extremely responsible and important one. You see, he not only has to bring out aspects of the game that mere statistics won't reveal. The journalist, like a player, sets his own stan-

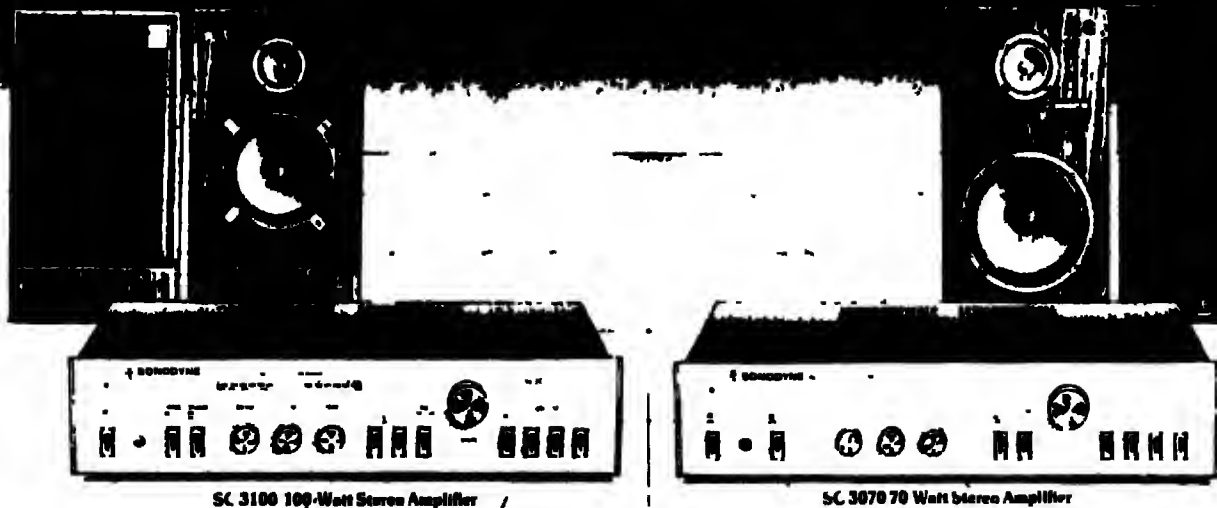
I have been misquoted several times. Sentences have been taken out of context and the meaning completely distorted. When I left Warwickshire in 1981 because the overseas player regulation wouldn't allow me to play with Kallicharran and Ferreira, a London-based Calcutta newspaper reporter misrepresented the entire episode trying to create an impression that my services weren't required.

Before reporting anything controversial like misconduct I would expect a responsible journalist to find out both sides of the story and then make a judgement. The game is given tremendous exposure today and even the minutest aspects scrutinised. Hence care must be taken not to make a mountain out of a molehill.

People believe in the written word. They treat it like the gospel truth. Therefore one would expect the Press to adhere to the truth. Didn't the great Peter May retire at the early age of 32 because he was criticised too harshly and personally? Probably the game lost a great player too early.



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# The selections were conducted most impartially

Former Indian cricket selector, Dattu Phadkar, talks about the mode of selecting the sides, the problems involved and other aspects to MUDAR PATHERYA

**SPORTSWORLD** You have served Indian cricket for quite some time now, as a selector and also as a player. What are your plans for a benefit?

**DATTU PHADKAR** Initially, it was going to be held in January 1983 and the players were supposed to come down here on 15 January but now all the plans have been changed. I was supposed to hold my benefit on 23 or 24 January but now I do not know what is going to happen. Now I am told that the Indian team will arrive from Pakistan on 3 February, so I don't think that there could be any chance of holding the benefit match this season. The chances of holding it in another couple of seasons also falls out, the West Indians, you see, will be coming here next winter for a full tour. The Board, you may be knowing, does not allow foreign teams to play Indian ones for somebody's benefit. So I have lost a very good opportunity.

**SW** Do you think that these benefits are actually benefits or merely organisational headaches?

**DP** It is a headache definitely as you have to organise the entire thing yourself. But you know that I am an old cricketer now. I didn't make much money in my playing days, so now at the fag end of my life I would like some money to see me through and help me in my old age. I don't want to depend on anyone then, I have been an independent man throughout my life and would like to remain so without being a burden. So this benefit match would have been very helpful to me. What am I going to do in my old age? Who is going to look after me? Had I been playing in this age I would have made good money. When I started playing in 1945 I was getting Rs 75 and when I retired I was getting Rs 350 and, just imagine, in those days we had to buy

our own clothes and cricket gear. Now the manufacturers present these to the cricketers. I am not grumbling, in fact I am very happy that present day players are being looked after.

**SW** Coming now to the Board elections, concluded in September. It was thought in most circles that you were going to be elected again as a selector. But then, you were ousted after a misconception. Mr Pankaj Roy was proposed as the East Zone candidate as some parties thought that you were not willing to stand

**I didn't make much money in my playing days, so now at the fag end of my life I would like some money to see me through and help me in my old age**

again. How do you explain all this?

**DP** I have no idea as to what happened, no idea at all. I had never said that I was withdrawing to anyone. I do not know what happened. I would very much have loved to be re-elected. This has, therefore, surely come as a shock. I was the senior-most cricketer, too. I just can't figure out as to how it happened. You shall have to find this out yourself.

**SW** What were your chances of being selected as the manager for the tour to Pakistan?

**DP** I do not think that I was in the running. Or rather, I do not know. How can I know? I do not move around with these people. Of course, had I been selected I might have

gone. It is a challenging job. Yet, I was surprised when I read one day before the managers were announced that I was in the running as the manager.

**SW** You were one of the selectors that chose the Indian team to go to England this year. How would you explain the selection of players like Suru Nayak, Ghulam Parkar and Pranob Roy?

**DP** Well, I shall put it this way. In a selection committee each selector airs his own views in the beginning. If one does not agree with one's views then we argue and discuss, after which if no solution is reached the issue is voted for. Then I have to accept the decision. I think this is quite fair. When we discuss all these things in a meeting we learn a lot of things—the defects, the technical points and things like that. According to the majority of the selectors it was thought that these boys were very good.

**SW** Does that imply that the majority was in favour of these whereas you were not?

**DP** I didn't say that. I said 'we', that is all. In an argument if your argument is strong then I have to accept it. I can't go on saying 'no'. There is never any vote of dissent.

**SW** How would the selectors explain the choice of the players?

**DP** Let us take Pranob Roy first. All pundits had agreed that he had the correct technique. Now he failed, not our fault. Even others who knew cricket technically and in other ways thought that Pranob Roy was the best equipped cricketer, a technically correct batsman. Whether he succeeds or not cannot be helped, that depending upon luck. For us, the preceding form is important.

Well, Suru Nayak had got the runs against the England side and got wickets also. He had played well in

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the one-day game, too. At that time the selectors thought that he would succeed in England. You and I may differ on this, but sometimes the fellow may come out and succeed.

**SW:** Would you say that he had been chosen on his one-day form when the Indians were scheduled for a Test series?

**DP:** Well, he batted really well. So why should we bother about the type of matches that he played in? I think he got 70-odd against England in the three-day game. We also thought that he had bowled well. It was a collective decision. If at all you want to blame then it should be on the entire panel and not on any one person. You cannot point out any one individual person. Moreover, selection is not an easy process. We really discuss the entire problem, all the selectors, and each player is discussed and then selected. So even if I am against one player or Polly is, the ultimate decision is taken by all. As far as Ghulam Parkar was concerned, he had made many runs.

**SW:** What were your specific contributions as a selector?

**DP:** With whatever little experience I had along with some technical knowledge, I gave the other selectors the benefit of my thinking. Yes, I have made certain contributions but I cannot tell you what I have done or not done. If I tell you that I have done this and I have done that then it is wrong.

Moreover, the credit over the years should go to all the selectors and not one of them. Look at the result during our tenure, at how many Test matches we won.

**I had never said that I was withdrawing to anyone. I do not know what happened. I would very much have loved to be re-elected**

**SW:** what about that theory that some of our victories were achieved against rather weak sides, like the West Indies and Australia that came down here?

**DP:** No, I wouldn't say that. What used to happen in the past? We used to get English teams which were never too good. Yet, we never used to win.

As regards my personal feelings, I have had an absolutely satisfying time as a selector. I think the selectors as a whole did an excellent job.

**SW:** Does the element of bias, if any, creep into the selection of cricket teams in the country?

**DP:** How can there be bias, tell me? There are five selectors from five zones. One of the selectors may say, 'I want him in' but then there

are four others also. Can anyone force his own candidate into a side? No pressures came from anywhere in the selection of sides. Moreover, Polly (Umrigar) and I were the senior most cricketers in the panel, so no players or officials could come to us and say "Bhai, ye karo, woh karo" (Do this, do that). There were also no groups within the selection committee during our tenure and no directives were given by any member of the Board to us. So the question of bias was just not there, everything was conducted most impartially.

**If at all you want to blame then it should be on the entire panel and not on any one person**

**SW:** Do you think that East Zone has been denied its rightful say in the recent past?

**DP:** How can you say that? On what grounds and with what examples? Tell me the names of the players that should have come into the side and were not given a chance? I wouldn't say that even with my being a selection member. When I was one, Gopal Bose went to England, after which I was not there in the panel for the next two years. Then, Dilip Doshi was selected, so was Pranob Roy and now Arun Lal. It is not right to say that East Zone has not been well looked after. Tell me, which are the players that have done well? Whenever I was there they got their due. For example, Barun Burman was given three chances and on all three occasions he failed, in the sense that he went off the field in all three matches. He was selected for important games and after one over or so he came off.

**SW:** What do you feel about the appointment of Mr. N K P Salve, considering that he has never served as the Vice President of the Board?

**DP:** How can I say anything about that? That is up to the public. They feel that, being a Minister, he will be able to help the Indian Board better. Now how that will be I don't know. I do not go into the Board policies. I am a cricketer, I talk about cricket and that is all. Nor have I given this idea any thought.

**SW:** Do you think that persons with political backing will be able to run the Board in an autonomous manner?

**DP:** I would not want to talk about it. The question is something not relating to cricket. I wouldn't be able to comment on it.

**SW:** How would you assess the performance of the Board under Mr. S. K. Wankhede?

**DP:** As far as the selectors were

concerned, we were very happy. He did not interfere with us and said, "you select the side and give the names." He also looked after us well. The arrangements like board and lodging and other things at different Test centres were taken care of for us under his insistence by the different State associations. I was very happy and so were the others.

**SW:** What do you feel about the selection process? Do you think that it requires some change for its improvement?

**DP:** I don't think the process needs any improvement. We have been seeing the players in different games at different places. Each one formed his own opinion, came together and discussed the entire matter. Sometimes it took three hours, four hours but we thrashed out points like technical points, temperament, the conditions where the players were to play in etc.

**SW:** Could you point out any flaws in the working of the Board?

**DP:** I won't be able to say anything about that, too. That is not really a cricketing question.

**SW:** There must have been times when selection on your part may have resulted in the player doing very well causing great satisfaction. Could you cite any instances?

**DP:** Against Pakistan in Bombay, I think, we took Roger Binny and in that particular match he got two wickets—one of Zaheer Abbas. All the selectors were happy when this

**No pressures came from anywhere in the selection of sides. I think we (selectors) did pretty well**

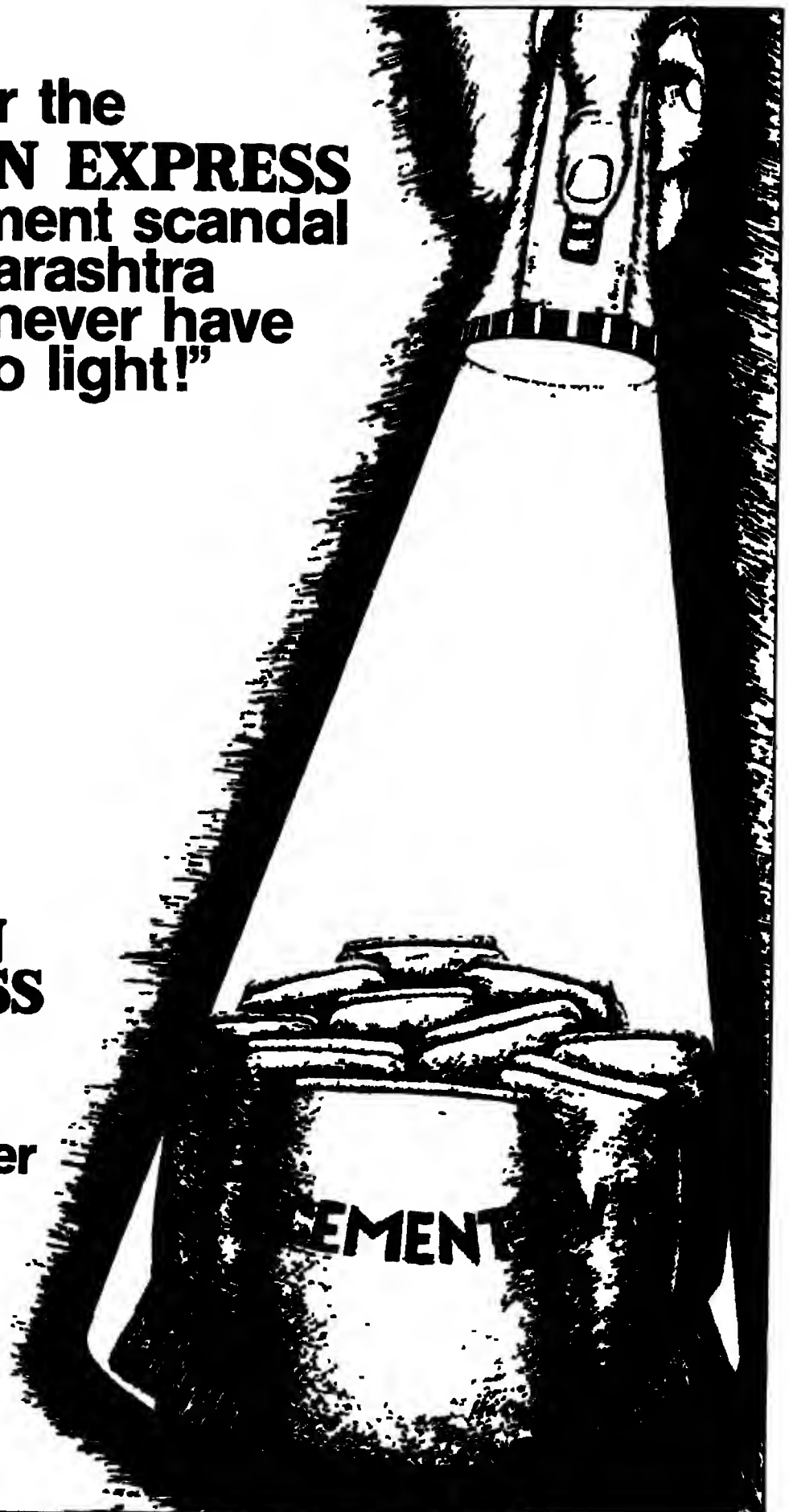
happened. This one was striking example because he came off very well. Another one was that Ravi Shastri who was kept as a standby for the Australian tour in 1980-81. He was later sent to New Zealand and he did very well there. Why, Dilip Doshi too! He got six wickets in his first innings at Madras. That really satisfied us.

**SW:** Would you say that the selection over the last few years has done more credit to the Indian image or more discredit?

**DP:** I think we did pretty well, pretty well. Take the case of talented youngsters like Ashok Malhotra. We brought him into the side. Then Shastri, too. You should give us some credit for selecting these players at the right time. There are failures, I don't say there aren't. It balances. But all in all, I think we did fairly well.

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# Rest of India resurrected

M.P. Rau reports on the Irani Trophy match

**I**f Ripley had been in Delhi during October he might well have raced to the nearest post office, teleaxed a message to his publisher and issued orders for printing a book specially for the Irani Trophy match just concluded between the Rest of India and Delhi played at the Ferozeshah Kotla. Set to make 421 runs in about 226 minutes added to 20 mandatory overs, Rest of India looked sure to draw things into a fruitless vacuum.

In fact Mohinder Amarnath had been mercilessly culled for some choice earthy expletives for not declaring the Delhi innings on the last day and giving Rest of India an even chance of winning the match. As things turned out the skipper proceeded Delhi's venture to 258 all out not forgetting the first innings lead that Delhi had seized—162 runs. The match looked like a dead duck draw in technical jargon and a Delhi victory by virtue of the first innings lead in more practical terminology. Surely, Mohinder Amarnath had made sure through all the kannu devices at hand that Delhi could not lose.

But they did. In the sudden turn of events, which make cricket all the more relishable Srikanth got himself a most typical century, Malhotra joined him in the mid to get even more and the collective strength of India had won it with half their resources still intact and four balls to spare. Ironic enough for the Indian selectors at the time of disconcerting winds of change in the fortunes of Pakistan, a border across.

Delhi is an adrenalin side. There is always someone to watch. And on the first day there were titans aplenty when Chauhan edged Sandhu into gloved hands for only eight. Another chance gone, by the end of the game the prospects had prospects beyond the horizon. To fill in the breach it was Gursharan Singh and that is when the music began. Raman Lamba and he began to expose some glaring lacunae in the Rest hawling. 141 minutes had yielded 140 runs.

Lamba at times was a marvel. He ought to have been held in the slips by Arun Lal when a square cut found the edge but he compensated for this lapse in satisfactory proportions, part of which was realised when he lifted Shastri out of sight for one of the more pleasing sixes of the game. Surprisingly omitted from the North Zone side this season, Lamba brought to notice how grave it all had been. His cover drives were

struck with a rare fluency and timing though at one glance his nine boundaries seemed to belie his aggression. He peaked after lunch when 61 runs came off the third hour and with Gursharan at the other end there could have been little on the menu cards of the connoisseurs.

The turbaned teenager is, perhaps, on the shortest list of the most exciting cricketers at present in India. He prefaced another long innings with a rasping square of tellow-faithful Sandhu and then almost immediately found the gap with a crisply timed on drive for four. The flood gates had burst open. His batting was one extension of a merry sequence though in the eighties Gursharan seemed to have yielded to temptation. The scoreboard must have kept him informed, he became cautious—the anathema for a youngster so talented. The century was never reached, he tried to sweep Shastri, missed and was howled round the legs for 91. Lamba too, had gone, howled by another left armer Doshi—oh the heartbreaks—for seven short of the magic mark.

To keep up with the cold blooded still Mohinder stepped in. He began with an excellent six over extra cover off Doshi, then did a repeat and for most of the time was content to collect his runs in singles and twos. Professional batting really, and it worked. At the end of the first day, Delhi looked already safe—354 for four and come now, Rest of India.

On the second morning, Delhi muffed it up. Their foundations laid, they could have gone over to at least half a thousand but Amarnath fell for 128, Shukla went for just 29, Madan Lal for a dozen and Surinder Khanna for none. The last three batsmen put forward 33 and Delhi ran out steam at 429, not too bad at one glance but with a different story to tell from another angle. Sandhu had come off with fine figures of five for 110, to the effect of which was to tell on the selectors as the match wore on, and Doshi was just Doshi four with for 66.

By the end of the day Rest of India had almost packed up. For six wickets down 213 looked none too decorative on the scoreboard and the culprit of the piece was Maninder Singh, destroyer in chief with four wickets for 44. And it weighed almost double of what the mathematic said—he had Gavaskar clean bowled for nought, Patil caught by his captain for no more, Srikanth

stumped and Malhotra trapped plumb. An international haul, so to say.

Rest of India's output would have looked even worse had it not been for Srikanth. His 83 would have made even Kapil a proud man and the 79 balls couldn't have been treated worse under the circumstances. He launched into his assault with a hook off Valsan then mauled Madan Lal for two successive sixes. When the 100 came up his share was 72, heartening statistics in the light of the fact that Arun Lal went for only five. Things were going well until Patil and Gavaskar walked considerable distances at 125 and four wickets had gone. Malhotra came to the rescue with a patient 67 while Shastri pitched in with 29, at gargantuan proportions when you consider that no batsman was willing to breathe even a little in the middle.

The third day came and Rest of India seemed scaled. Mohinder and Shukla split four wickets equally in peace and the might of India splintered out at 267. The glow had returned on Delhi faces. Bishan Singh Bedi looked already a proud man, he had just been a secretary around for a few days and his boys were moving mountains.

But there was still more to come. His lads had a rather good start with Chauhan and Lamba putting on 67. The former went for 26, lbw Sandhu, while his accomplice returned bowled for 46. Gursharan missed out on a flighted Sivaramakrishnan leg spinner and was stumped away from home while Kiran Azad let another opportunity go, stumped Pakkar off Shastri for no addition. By the end of the day Sivaramakrishnan had accounted for two more local batsmen—Shukla and Surinder Khanna—and though Delhi's chances of losing seemed negligible, the South Indian legger seemed to have made his mark.

Another one to have stencilled his claims even deeper was Mohinder Amarnath. The senior in the family must have quite chuffed that evening—52 to his little boy and the next stop was Pakistan. He couldn't have been more right. Nor could have Shastri for that matter. His figures of 15.2-9-20.3 deserved more than a mention and certain section had already begun with the whisperings. He had done all he needed to.

Though 202 for eight wickets did not necessarily mean home, Delhi had the match all but sewn on the fourth morning. They finished at 258, Sivaramakrishnan with four to himself and the match pretty well locked up. But Srikanth hit a rapid fire 110, Malhotra finished with an unbeaten 116, Arun Lal eased the tensions with 82 over his selection for the ultimate and Patil chipped in with 41. More surprisingly, Maninder had given away 180 runs for two wickets!

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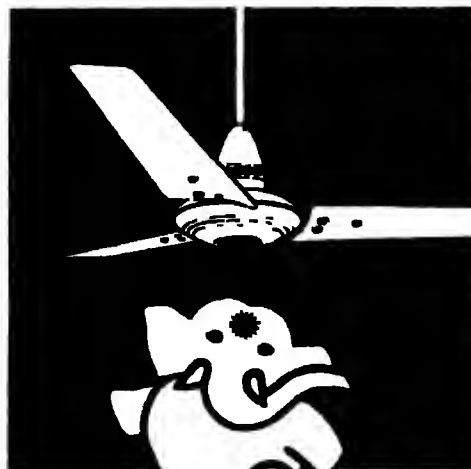


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**A**FTER the exercise of two trial meets, it can now be said with some confidence that the Asian Games will be held with all the facilities in reasonable order, if not to everyone's total satisfaction.

Everyone—the sportsman, the official and the spectator—had some reservations about the conduct of the Games when the newly-constructed arenas were put to the test during the Trial Games in September. The list of defects seemed unending. But, by the time the women's sports festival came, many of these loopholes were plugged and there were fewer complaints.

For all the criticism heaped on the special Organising Committee, particularly its technical directorate, one can safely say that the venues stood the test well.

Even the swimming pool, which gave no end of trouble to all those concerned with its construction, is competition-fit. Even the feel of the opening and closing ceremonies was satisfying, though they were far from the real thing. Everything looked impressive and came off well, timed to the last minute, if not to the last second.

Of course, for spectators, the schoolchildren trooped into the venues in an organised manner, causing minimal problems for the Border Security Force and army jawans, who manned the gates at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The arrangements looked adequate at every venue. In fact, at places like the Hall of States and Talkatora Indoor Stadium, where the capacity is not much, one wonders whether there would be enough space for the security men to move about inside. With all the traffic restrictions and the innumerable entry points, one may be well advised to do some homework before setting off.

One official, who came for the opening ceremony of the women's festival, took more than half an hour to find the right entry gate since nothing was marked on his card. By the time he got in, the show was almost over.

The most satisfying part of the festival was the commissioning of the swimming pool at the Talkatora complex. If and when the roof comes over the pool (for the Asiad it will be roofless) it should be a fabulous structure. As it is, it has an imposing look in idyllic surroundings. On the opening day of the swimming meet one could see the beaming faces of the engineers and other officials connected with it.

There was very little to be done at

## D. RAHUL

the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, the Hall of States and the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium, except giving some finishing touches.

The one important place which did not get a final approval is the Games Village. The competitors for the women's festival were not lodged there. As there was not enough time to finish the pending jobs, though many thought that the authorities did not want to take a risk after the experience of the Trial Games. At some places trial dope tests were also conducted.

The festival itself meant very little competition-wise and very few had any stakes as most of the Indian teams had been selected already. Many federations did not allow their Asiad probables to go anywhere near the festival except for practice during the intervals.

Basketball, volleyball, tennis and gymnastics were an exception. In these disciplines also, some of the states did not include the probables as the teams were selected by the sports councils and sports directorates without consulting the state sports associations.

Probables or no probables, the

hockey event had some sting. The standard of play was good, particularly Uttar Pradesh, who won the event, followed by Bihar, Punjab, Maharashtra and Karnataka in that order. The girls' approach to the game was pleasing and it was nice to see some of them bringing the reverse flick into play. The trapping of the ball and running on the flanks, too, had finesse.

Punjab girls won the basketball title, but not before a stirring semi-final round against Kerala, who despite losing three of their players to Tamil Nadu, drew upon their reserves who looked good enough.

Punjab, with their impressive bench strength, had very little to worry about. They beat Karnataka easily in the final, but their match against Kerala was the virtual final. Karnataka had beaten Delhi in the other semi-final. Kerala's Leelamma Thomas, Tamil Nadu's Sathy and Karnataka's Jayavanthi overshadowed everyone else except the Punjab girls for whom Guisimran Laddi, Ashi Sharma and Kanwaljit Bath excelled.

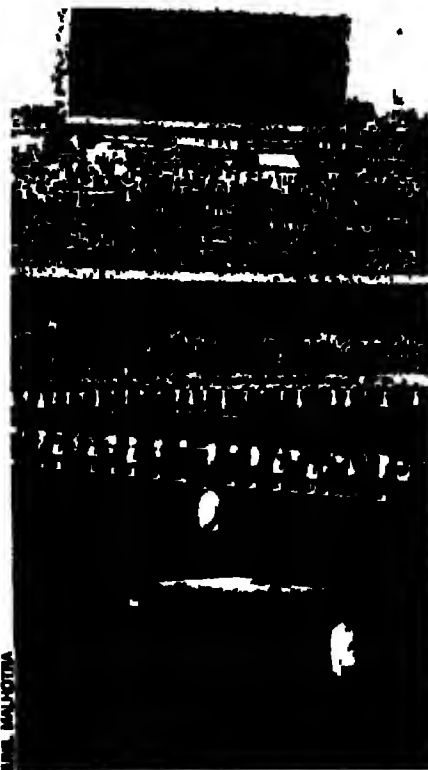
Kerala, however, did not miss the bus at the Indraprastha Stadium. They won the volleyball final easily, Sally Joseph being their star performer. In round-robin play, they topped the table. Tamil Nadu took the second place and West Bengal were third.

Andhra Pradesh were the surprise winners in table tennis. Former India ranked junior B Usha being the only player to reckon with, theirs was a remarkable win. Winning her singles, Usha made sure of the vital doubles also in partnership with her elder sister Savithri. She won all but one of her singles. Her only loss was to Maharashtra's Shilpa Takalakar. Tamil Nadu, who had beaten Andhra in the round-robin semi-final, finished third behind Andhra and Maharashtra, Chandigarh being fourth.

Amritha Ahluwalia and Namratha Appa Rao were too strong to be denied the tennis title for Tamil Nadu. With Anu Peshwaria pulling out on the first day itself with an injury, Delhi were out and Bengal and Karnataka could not stand up to the Tamil Nadu duo.

Asiad dropout Edna Adhikari of Delhi and Bengal's Runu Das dominated swimming. They divided much of the gold between them as the rest were streets behind.

West Bengal and Maharashtra gymnasts ended up in a photo finish. Bengal took the title by the narrowest of margins—133.05 points to 133.



A view of the opening ceremony

## NATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING

# Reaching for the sky

INDIAN weightlifters are reaching for the sky. They should grab the pot of gold come November and the Asian Games Performances in the National and Inter-state competitions lend credence to our medal winning prospects. An Asian Games record bettered, another equalled and 17 Indian marks were improved in the four-day meet. No longer is the sport in the grey zone, it now shines brilliantly.

The pathfinder was Punjab's Gian Singh Cheema. His feats in the 100 kg section placed him on a pedestal. The first Indian to cross the 400-pound barrier—it was Cheema. He set new highs for the snatch, the clean and jerk and ended with a tally of 325 kg to equal the Asian Games record.

Cheema is symphony in motion. He blazed a trail in the snatch—first lift 150 kg to tie with India's best, then moved to 135 kg for a new mark. Came the jerk and another record. It was broken at the first attempt, Cheema effortlessly picking up 500 grams over the listed figures. This was the appetiser. He scaled 190 kg on his final try, 5 kg more than the Asian Games record and within 1 kg of the Asian all-comers' record. The tally placed Cheema on a par with the Bangkok Asian Games champion of 1978.

Baby-faced Cheema belies his 30 years. He speaks with a soft voice about how he won the 90 kg category national crown six years back and flew to London to look after his pub and three children. He denies he has had any formal coaching. He is now wondering if somebody will pick up his air fare tab.

Nothing could dim Cheema's performance that day, but shadowed somewhat it was that day by Tara Singh's super duper display in the 110 kg category. The bubbling, Tara, Cheema's next village neighbour, disco danced his way off-stage after each and every record-setting effort. The Railway ace not only erased all the India records in this class, but also equalled the Asian Games record in the snatch and improved by 7.2 kg the Games jerk record as also in the total.

And how Tara went about it all. In snatch he moved from 125 kg to 140 kg, in the jerk he hiked his first effort of 172.5 kg by 20 kg for his next lift.

Tara's and Cheema's performances lent the sport new dimensions.

50kg	SNATCH	JERK	TOTAL
1. Parvesh(PB)	90	115	205
2. Sambandan(SM)	80	112.5	202.5
3. Karunakam(RLY)	80	110	200
55kg			
1. Bhoj Kumar Satpathy(SER)	102.5	127.5	230.0
2. M. Vohra(RLY)	105	122.5	227.5
3. Sathar(RLY)	102.5	125	227.5
60kg			
1. Tamil Selvan(RLY)	112	127.5	240
2. P. K. Gurung(SER)	100	137.5	237.5
3. B. Thangam(RLY)	107.5	130	237.5
67.5kg			
1. J. M. Sapra(RLY)	120	147.5	267.5
2. W. K. Pan(SER)	110	140	250
3. S. Nelson Porway(RLY)	107.5	137.5	245
75kg			
1. Daler Singh(SER)	120	150	270
2. Hardeep Singh(RLY)	115	142.5	257.5
3. Sampuran Singh(RLY)	102.5	130	232.5
82.5 kg			
1. A. K. Sood(RLY)	127.5	160	287.5
2. Gurdawar Singh(PB)	120	160	280
3. Mehar Chand(SER)	122.5	150	272.5
90kg			
1. V. K. Daroga(RLY)	135	160	295
2. Paranjit(MP)	117.5	145	262.5
3. P. K. Pandey(SER)	112.5	145	257.5
100kg			
1. G. S. Cheema(PB)	135	192	325
2. V. K. Tyagi(RLY)	125	170	295
3. S. K. Khola(SER)	107.5	150	257.5
110kg			
1. Tara Singh(RLY)	136.5	190	326.5
2. Barry(RAJ)	115	157.5	272.5
3. Gururam(SER)	110	160	270
Over 110kg:			
1. N. K. Daroga(RLY)	137.5	170	307.5
2. Balinder (SER)	122.5+122.5	170	292.5
3. K. G. Baglari (SER)	95	140	235
Final positions—			
1. Railways 465 pts			
2. Services 439 pts			
3. Punjab 182 pts			
Inter-state			
1. Punjab 94 pts			
2. Tamil Nadu 76 pts			
3. Maharashtra 48 pts			

**BEST LIFTER:** Jagmohan Sapra (RLY) Improvement of over 17.5 kg in the last few months.

There were other experiences to share at the Asian Games culture centre. The doings of Jag Mohan Sapra and Anil Sood, both Delhi boys now with the Railways, the efforts of brothers Vicky and Neville Daroga, Tamil Selvan's consistency—all set records, all drew repeated rounds of applause. All are in the Asian Games squad as is Ekambaram Karunakaran, the dethroned 52 kg category champion, who has been preferred to

new title-holder Parvesh Chander. The substitution was effected on the advice of the Hungarian coach, who thought the Railway star had a better chance of winning a medal. The Weightlifting Federation of India selectors were also influenced by the fact that Karunakaran met the qualifying standards—fifth place performance in the last Asian Games.

**S.K. MEHRA, Delhi**



VITAS GERULAITIS:

# I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH MY TOES

**W**HO will forget that memorable five-set semi final match in 1977 at Wimbledon? There was Vitas Gerulaitis, golden locks flying, covering more miles than a marathoner, racing time and again from sideline to sideline, baseline to net, in a vain attempt to stop the other thoroughbred on the opposite side of the net, his friend, Bjorn Borg.

While John McEnroe is known as the guy with the quickest hands in the game, there are few who are as fast afoot on court as his fellow New Yorker, Gerulaitis.

It's his nature. He talks fast, drives fast cars, pilots a fast boat. And when he revs it up, it's not to fish. "No, fishing is just too slow for me," says Gerulaitis. "Water skiing, that's what I like."

He travels with a jet-set crowd,

keeps late hours at fancy discos and clubs, and lives life to the fullest. It's obvious that three hours spent trading round strokes from the baseline would be enough to make the already high-strung speedster a basket case. So he plays a game that suits his style: flashy, speedy, New York style. It's up to the net and end the point.

The surprising thing about Gerulaitis—and something not to be emulated by those less gifted—is that he does no exercises to keep those wheels in shape.

"I can't even touch my toes," he admits. "I do a lot of sleeping in gyms I go, thinking I'll exercise, but I usually end up in a corner watching the other guys pump iron. I love to watch! But really, I've never done stretching exercises in my 20 years of playing tennis. I've done exercises

in workouts with Mr. (Harry) Hopman, but never on my own. It's just too boring."

**QUESTION:** Did you play any other sport that may have contributed to your speed?

**ANSWER:** Yeah, I played a little basketball and some soccer when I was a kid. Soccer's a very good footwork sport, I think.

**QUESTION:** Is there anything you did in your early training that helped you develop your speed?

**ANSWER:** Well, it came from when I was training with Mr. Hopman at the Port Washington Tennis Academy in New York. I was 14 or 15, and we used to do a lot of those two-on-one drills. He would make us go for balls, even if they were out by one or two yards, all around the court.

By doing that, number one, you got



Gerulaitis with (l. to r.) model Cheryl Tiegs, the Nastase and Martina Navratilova



used to playing the ball on one bounce, never letting it bounce two or three times. A lot of players do that in practice, and it gets you into a lot of lazy habits. And number two, it's always like you're playing a match, the real thing. And just that will get you into moving a lot better.

**QUESTION:** How much do you rely on your footwork and speed? If there's a day when you're feeling a bit lead-footed, can it throw off everything for you?

**ANSWER:** Well, if I'm feeling slow, it sure doesn't help matters much. But, you know, then you have to rely a bit more on your strokes, a little bit more on hitting balls with a little more angle, trying to move your opponent out of court. Sometimes, when you're really fast or you know you're faster than the other guy, you're able to play a few more balls back and force the opponent into more errors. More balls the other guy has to hit, the more chance there is that he'll make an error.

**QUESTION:** What about different court surfaces? How do they affect your speed?

**ANSWER:** I think you have to be faster on a hard court. On clay, a lot of slow players have learned to slide. They can compensate, so it's an equaliser. But with speed on clay, it means you can pretty much get to any ball, and it's tough to put a ball by a fast player. Let's face it, having a bit more speed helps on any surface. On grass, you have to be quick,

too, because you have to get down low and adjust to bad bounces.

**QUESTION:** On what surface do you feel most comfortable, most speedy?

**ANSWER:** I like indoor courts, particularly Supreme Grass is a little bit easier on your body, but I don't mind a hard, cement court, either. It doesn't have to be soft for me. I'd rather play on a surface where you can get a true footing and where you can turn well when you're up at the net. Clay's a little difficult sometimes because you can have trouble pushing off at the net.

**QUESTION:** Do you have a favourite shot that you feel you're able to hit time and again just because of your speed?

**ANSWER:** Well, I don't think there's one specific shot where you have an advantage, except maybe a wide, running shot. But I think it's great to be able to hit a good first volley because, even if you're stretched out wide, you know you'll still be able to put the ball away. It's a pretty good feeling.

**QUESTION:** As a fast player, is it more of a kick to play another speedster, like Borg or Johan Kriek, where you know it will almost be a footrace the whole match?

**ANSWER:** I like some guy who's like molasses! It's fun, sure, to play someone fast, but I'd rather play someone who's slow.

**QUESTION:** You've said you don't exercise, except at Hopman's. Do

you do wind sprints?

**ANSWER:** Yes, right after practice on court.

**QUESTION:** What about rope-jumping?

**ANSWER:** I've never jumped a rope. Well, maybe once with my sister, Ruta, when I was about six. But it's got to be good for footwork, because a lot of players are doing it.

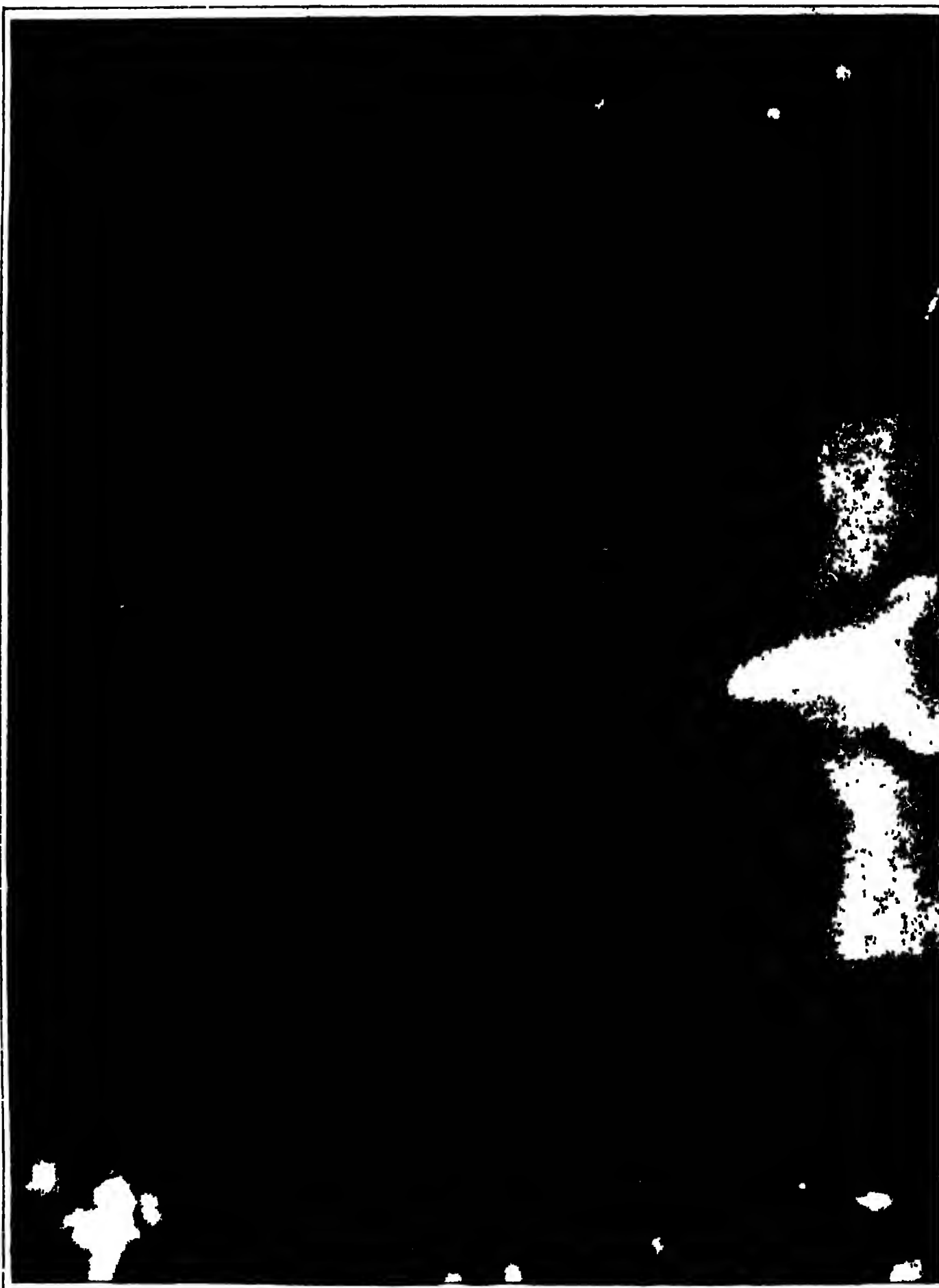
**QUESTION:** You're 27 now. Do you find that playing longer matches takes a toll, with all that coming in?

**ANSWER:** I'm sure it eventually does, because you're definitely not getting stronger and stronger as you get older. But I think you have to reach a certain age before you start to deteriorate a little—maybe 30, 32. The only change I've noticed is that I've gained a little weight, maybe three or four pounds, and I think it's actually made me a little stronger. I definitely don't feel any slower. If anything, I feel faster.

**QUESTION:** What would you tell someone who wants to improve his or her speed? Can you really improve it enough to make a difference, or does it have to be God-given?

**ANSWER:** Well, you can always improve it to make a difference. But for somebody to be as fast as Borg or Kriek, guys like that, you definitely just have to have it. If you're considerably slower, you're not going to improve enough to match their speed. That's something that's God-given. But you can always get better if you want to.

*Courtesy Tennis*







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# IMRAN

## THE MAN TO WATCH

Imran Khan profiled by MUDAR PATHERYA

**IMRAN AHMAD KHAN NIAZI.** If they were a Christian they would have canonised him by now. In theocratic Pakistan they only make such people captains and re-elect them for another series.

The story goes back some eleven months into murkier roots. At Perth in the first Test, a match Australia won by 286 runs, Imran had four for 66 and three for 90 while the batsmen squandered away the leeway by being bowled out for their lowest ever of 62 in less than two hours. Came Brisbane and Imran now had four wickets, Border, Hughes and Wellham bowled and Marsh gripped in the slips. But by Melbourne in the third Test, the wheel had begun to budge. Imran now picked up five and creamed it with an unbeaten 70 while Pakistan whopped it by an innings and 82 runs. The Aussies were impressed—as were their womenfolk. Imran Khan was promptly selected as the Man of the Series.

The confusion. A rising against Miandad. Dropped for two Tests against Sri Lanka. Return at Lahore. Eight for 58 and then six for 58. Captain of Pakistan to England.

It would be needless to stress on Imran's role for Pakistan in England. His runs increased his potential as a bowler peaked and suddenly, Pakistan, initially subscribing to the theory that they were basically an individual side, joined hands and the break was made. This was reflected never better than when Imran himself would model himself against his nature, play at times the way he would never have before. At Edgbaston, for example, he made designs of staying at the wicket for long but once his partners had deserted him and victory all but looked a possibility, he immediately lifted Hemmings for two of the most sweetly timed sixes of the game. With the passing of the series, Pakistan's tail enders became more or less accustomed to seeing him at the other end. If determination itself could have won cricket matches, England would have given up the fight by the beginning of the second Test itself.

And now Australia again. After the tour to Blighty it was thought that the series would provide a new flavour. It never did. The visitors to Paki land were outplayed though

they were not, as many would now say, a down and out side. I think that there was more to it than just playing ability and this is where Imran Khan steps in again. Under him Qadir—a cousin, it is heard—played a decisive role in all three games and Australia lost each. A tremendous influence, if you measure that the Pakistan Press had condemned the leggie's selection for the trip to England and boiled it down to naked favouritism. The wheel had turned a quick circle.

Quite a distant call from what critics had sharpened their shafts



Imran Khan, as he was eight years ago. This photograph was copied from *The Cricketer International* which had, incidentally, been captioned 'A team in himself'.

for "One story is enough to upset the dressing room. And the media today simply thrive on such materials. Previously, Imran was just another member of the team. As captain he is supposed to lead by example. Captains don't look nice when they are made to give explanations. They lose a lot of respect." The same writer, a certain Sohaib Alvi by name, was of the opinion that "Asking him to take over is like asking Field Marshal Rommel to take command of the Eastern Front as well." Another was of the view that his shortcomings as a skipper would go some way in reducing his 'ego and charm', not to touch on his playing abilities at all!

Imran Khan will be 30, this 25 November. Possibly the fastest bowler in Pakistan's history, it would be interesting to milk Dr. Jahangir Khan on whether Nissar, another Punjabi, was faster. It is passed around that when Imran was younger the inner side of his arm was fixed from the skin to his body. One fine day, he was in danger of falling off a tree and in a reflex action tried to prevent himself from plummeting. The skin ripped, the arm went loose and Imran was on his way to being a fast bowler. Today a scar remains and he finds it difficult to extend his arm. Batting, too, becomes difficult.

He made his first-class debut in 1969-70 for Lahore and waited for only a year and a half before making it to England under 'Inty' Alam. Imran played a Test, not that he would like to remember it. He sprayed the ball all over the shop and was dropped from the remaining Tests. He joined Worcestershire that very year and played for Oxford, too, till 1973, captaining it in 1974.

But during that period it was merely an internship. The honours came his way for the first time in 1976-77 when the Pakistanis were fighting it out in Australia. Someone suggested that he ought to bowl faster and Imran thought it worth to give it a try. The result was dramatic. He took 12 for 165 in the last Test, Pakistan beat Australia for the first time on their ground and even Greg Chappell was of the opinion. "On occasions, he bowled as fast as Lillee in this Test, and it rates as one of the best performances by an opposition bowler I have seen in my career."

At present, Imran is at the crest of it all. Holding is, perhaps, the only one faster but when the battle squares off to skill, the swing variation and the ultimate quizzing—now what?—Imran takes the biscuit. "You seldom know what his next move will be," says Bari and he's been around with the man for more than a decade now! And the one that confirmed it was when he took off Randall's bails at Edgbaston this year. The batsman shoulder-armed—many would have done the same—but the ball after pitching came in very late, almost posthumously and Randall's innings was history. "I was surprised at the amount the ball

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came back from the off," he gulped later.

Brearley, with whom Imran almost came to blows during a County game, was more emphatic "I think Imran is the best bowler in the world. In the past few years he has improved enormously. He used to bowl like a garden hose but now he's got control and swings the ball both ways. Imran Khan is fast, really fast." I think Botham would testify to that. At Edgbaston—again—he bowled Botham with one of the fastest deliveries seen. Straight stuff, but Botham had missed out even before he could begin on his downswing.

Basically, Imran has a very unhurried action. In comparison, Naqqash would make you believe that he was out to ping you from his very first stride. It is Imran's final hurl that makes all the difference. He never ceases to give the impression that he is 'digging' it in, in fact, he continually does. Nobody has got around scoring runs with the ball around one's throat all the time. Bari again: "Some of his lifting balls are impossible to take, and as the ball races to the fence behind me, I look back and console myself that no one could have stopped it even if he had a fair chance to do so."

**"Look, in truth, I feel terribly uncomfortable when all those girls gush over me.**

Surprisingly as it may be taken, Imran Khan began his career as a batsman. He was only a part-timer with the ball—mainly medium paced stuff—and even opened the batting for Lahore on his first-class debut.

"When I was young I just wasn't interested in bowling fast, which was nothing unusual because nobody in Pakistan was particularly interested in bowling.

"As you know, the wickets over there don't encourage the fast men—actually they do their worst to discourage them—and the climate isn't particularly friendly. Also the physique of the average player doesn't lend itself to fast bowling, so it's easy to understand why there haven't been many great Pakistani fast men.

"Actually, if I may go back a few years, Pakistan's batting was fairly weak before the Seventies. In those days, and on our wickets, most Pakistani captains played for draws so there was no incentive for any quicks lurking about.

"In those days I regarded myself as a special bat who could bowl a bit and my chances weren't too hot of breaking into the Pakistani team. I realised that I'd better make myself something of an all-rounder if I hoped to play for my country and in 1971, at 18, I got my first cap as exactly that—a batting all-rounder."



*At the nets, but handsome all the same*

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"My cousins, Majid and Javed Burki were my inspiration in a lot of ways. I wish I didn't have to bowl because, you see, staying fit as a fast bowler takes so much of my time and my mind. When I get up in the mornings I would like to think of myself as a batsman." Not that he has been very successful. And there is a reason to it: Pakistan being a well stocked side, there was never any needle situation when he was required to do serious duty. Moreover, the shortage of fast flyers in the side was reason enough for him to concentrate on bowling and hence, the imbalance. That should not imply that he cannot meet bat with ball. He has a

Test century to himself, against the West Indians of all people. He got 123 off 199 balls with 13 boundaries and the denizens of Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium doubtless went home mighty chuffed. The fairer ones not excluded.

And in the first night game at Dubai last year, Imran hit 179 out of a team score of 283 in 35 overs. The bowlers were John Lever, Pat Pocock, Graham Roope, Merry and Graveney. The innings contained 18 sixes and 13 fours with some of his shots landing outside the stadium and three even on the roof of the stadium! The next highest total was 29.

But the match that Country rovers will probably remember for a long time, as long as his name keeps cropping up, was the one against Glamorgan at Swansea for Sussex. It all finished off in less than two days, Imran having a century to himself—five sixes and 13 fours—and game figures of eight for 53. The margin of victory was an innings and 189 runs.

But odd as it may seem, Imran Khan's relevance during discussions after dinner is seldom centred around his proficiency. Folks on the contrary seem to focus their attention on 'See, he just shaved today' and 'Look, look Imran is standing at long leg' when the most important over the day is in progress. His face is such an economic factor for sporting magazines that one glance from a glossy cover can mean thousands of more copies being sold. In May 1979, five magazines of Pakistan featured him on the cover—all at one time! Not that this does not affect cricket. *The Cricketer* of Pakistan complained "Sixty per cent of the letters received by us in our question answer column relate to Imran. At least 90 per cent of these are from girls—'What's Imran's Pakistani address?' 'Is Imran Khan engaged?' 'Is he married?'"

Even the film industry cashed in on this. Some floated rumours that he would be acting in their films, some that he was going to be married to Zeenat Aman until Imran had to, time and again, resort to issuing public statement that he would initiate legal proceedings against the offenders!

Sometimes the potential for damage was even greater. When he pulled a muscle at Delhi in 1979-80 on a pitch that would have been any pacemaker's utopia, he was accused of actually suffering a rib injury because of excessive womanising! It was the first injury since his Test debut and the first game that he had missed at the first-class level since 1972! "Their lecherous fantasies were unleashed on me and suddenly I became a drunken Casanova, who was spending the entire tour chasing Indian actresses at champagne parties." On another occasion, he was accused of going out during the hours of play with a woman and sending a substitute in!

Imran is a voracious reader—50 books a week and he is satisfied. He owns four Rolls Royces and five sports cars, doesn't smoke as he says, and likes "all the beautiful creatures created by the Almighty." His ambition? Quite simply, "to be able to sing as well as Mudassar and act as well as Sarfraz." One day I must find out.

As cousin Majid Khan puts it, "He's a good lad." As if to corroborate that Imran says, "Look, in truth, I feel terribly uncomfortable when all those girls gush over me. Honestly, I feel so embarrassed." Touche!

## Most complete victory for Pakistan ever?

Qamar Ahmed provides the expert's angle

**A**S expected, Pakistan defeated Australia to make a clean sweep of the series, winning it 3-0. Their nine-wicket win at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, in the third and final Test was a magnificent effort against the visiting Australians, who will now soon be involved in the fight for the Ashes.

Soon after the Australian batting had collapsed in the first innings of the final Test, their manager, Colin Egar, stepped into the Press gallery threatening to sue a local reporter for describing the Australian's effort as 'gutless.' Whether he meant it or not, the truth of the matter is that the visitors had been beaten convincingly and comprehensively in what was, perhaps, the most complete victory for Pakistan ever.

For the first time in Pakistan's cricketing history a team has won every Test of the series and it was a series that went as planned. Right from the word 'go', Imran and his men fought like a united bunch and dominated the visiting Australians, not only in the Test matches but also in the one-day games. From the first one-day game to the last the visitors could not shake off their winter hangovers. Coming straight from the Australian winter to Pakistan, where the heat hardly went below 30 degrees centigrade, the tourists were totally overshadowed by the Pakistanis, who after their fascinating trip to England, were in top gear. Like in England, Imran Khan and Abdul Qadir dominated the bowling scene whereas Mohsin Khan, Javed Miandad, Mansoor Akhtar and Zaheer Abbas took the toll of the Aus-

tralian bowlers by scoring centuries against them. Right arm leg spinner Abdul Qadir, the magic man of the English trip last summer, was declared the Willis Man of the Series and finished with another 22 wickets in the series and along with fiery Imran Khan he formed the backbone of Pakistan's bowling strength.

Imran, however, was the guiding influence on his team's magnificent achievement in the series. He not only led his team with great authority and ambition but also proved to be the most feared opponent for the Australians. His bag of eight for 80 in the final Test brought the Australians down on their knees. Comparing them with the Pakistanis, the tourists were in a awful mess. They couldn't adjust against the spin and pace combination of Qadir and Imran and their batsmen let their team down. Allan Border, their main run-getter, captain Kim Hughes and Wood hardly came off on the tour. Their only ray of hope was their young and talented batsman Greg Ritchie, who playing in his first-ever Test series, showed great promise and batted brilliantly, scoring a century in the Faisalabad Test. Their fielding was poor and patchy and mainly responsible for Australia's dismal disaster in the series.

The Australians in the third Test put up a decent beginning with 316 but squandered the advantage as Pakistan ran up 469 for seven wickets. The fight then fell through. Australia could put forward only 214 in their second outing, Pakistan did the needful and the series was won and lost.

## Gearing up for a season of vintage thrills

GEORGE K. GEORGE reviews the Davis Cup ties between the USA and Australia and France and New Zealand. Even more interesting than team tennis, he reports, is the prospect of the battle for singles supremacy in the coming months

**H**ATE John McEnroe if you must. But salute him for the sportsman he is. Sounds funny? Are not dedication and devotion to the game the essence of sportsman spirit? Is not team spirit the essence of sportsmanship, especially when it is preferred over big bags of money?

Don't you respect a player when he swallows his pride and his career record for his country, especially in an individualistic game like tennis? If so, take your hats off to John Patrick McEnroe Jr and thank him for making the Davis Cup tournament worth something.

In the first week of October, when Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl, Bjorn Borg and the likes were pounding tennis balls in Montreal at the \$250,000 Molson Light tournament, John McEnroe was on a plane to Perth, Australia. He left from San Francisco immediately after beating Jimmy Connors in straight sets in the Grand Prix final. After a refuelling stop in Honolulu, the Pan American 747 had an aborted take off. As it was taking off finally, one of the tyres burst.

It took two hours to discover the mishap and the plane returned to

Honolulu. Fuel was jettisoned into the sea and the passengers were warned about a possible crash landing. The plane landed safely, but McEnroe and his doubles partner Peter Flemming had to wait 10 hours before another plane arrived from Los Angeles. They had to sleep on the floor of Honolulu Airport in the meantime. They ended their journey on the third day, after 48 hours. Right away captain Arthur Ashe sent them to the practice courts.

In the meantime, Jimmy Connors was well on his way to the \$80,000 first prize and Borg was working on a \$50,000 second in the cosy environment of Montreal. They were not exactly sleeping on airport floors. They had much less at stake in a routine tournament.

John McEnroe and his new teammate Gene Mayer swept the opening matches more comfortably than anyone had imagined. McEnroe earned a conduct warning and a penalty point from French umpire Patrick Flodrops as he battled Australia's No. 1 Peter McNamara in four sets and 3 hours and 11 minutes.

After a sensational season in 1981, McNamara was expected to fare a lot better on his home turf. Though he took the second set at 6-4, McEnroe proved superior in strokes. McNamara put considerable pressure on the young American with some powerful serving. The penalty point and the warning came in the fourth set, after McNamara had held him to break points four times in his first two service games. Then he saved seven break points for himself in the seventh game.

In the next game McEnroe was broken and his troubles began. Though he broke back immediately and held his own serve to take a 4-3 lead, he disagreed with the umpire again and hit the ball into the crowd. That resulted in the penalty award in favour of McNamara and cost him the game. But in the last two games, McEnroe hit his peak and produced winner after winner to claim the set.

From then on, it was the United States and John McEnroe all the way. Gene Mayer beat John Alexander after conceding the second set. It was the former's first Davis Cup match. It was an easy win.

He had waited three years for that moment. "It was something I always wanted to play," he said. "I made myself available, but Ashe picked others. I had to swallow my pride to make myself continually available. And this time when he asked me, my first reaction was to say, 'No, I'm not interested.' But that wasn't reasonable, even though I felt I had been wronged."

John McEnroe was not too pleased with Ashe's behaviour either. "At break point in the fourth set I thought the ball was well inside the line, and Arthur thought so too. But he didn't say anything. I wanted his support..." he said later.



Gene Mayer Davis Cup debut for the USA



Yannick Noah a force to reckon with

The doubles match was a lineup between the best doubles teams of the world, Peter McNamara and Paul McNamee, the reigning Wimbledon champions took on last year's Wimbledon champs, McEnroe and Fleming. The Australians were favoured to win, especially because Flemming's game has been rather erratic in recent months.

But the Americans won after the fourth set tie-breaker. McNamee and Fleming held the fort for their respective teams. Flemming's consistency gave McEnroe the opportunity to hit out freely and he made the best of that opportunity. Their combination was near perfect.

The 3-0 lead by the Americans decided the tie, but McEnroe and Mayer played the remaining matches with enthusiasm and dedication. The matches were reduced to a best of three sets basis by mutual agreement. Mayer beat Mark Edmondson who had replaced the injured McNamara, in 67 minutes and McEnroe outclassed John Alexander in 71 minutes.

John McEnroe's next Davis Cup voyage will be to the indoor clay courts of Grenoble, France, for the finals which start on November 26. His main opponent will be the surface. Then there is Ashe's protege Yannick Noah, who carried his coun-

try on his shoulders in their tie against New Zealand.

France took a 2-0 lead on the opening day, thanks to Thierry Tulsane's win over Russel Simpson. Yannick Noah had no problems in disposing off Chris Lewis. But Lewis and Simpson took the doubles from Noah and Henri Leconte in straight sets in a match marred by disputes over line calls.

New Zealand came closer when Chris Lewis beat Thierry Tulsane to make it 2-2. An undeterred Noah swept the final match in straight sets before the home crowd and took France to the finals.

It will be interesting to watch Ashe as he leads his men against his protege. Where will the loyalties be? Knowing Arthur Ashe, it is not hard to predict. He will be with the U.S. all the way.

Bjorn Borg lost another opportunity to re-establish himself by losing the Molson Light Challenge to Jimmy Connors. It was their third encounter since the American's Wimbledon win and the first after his U.S. Open showdown with Lendl. In the two exhibition matches before the Open, Connors had won easily. But this was a tournament with a number of top players.

Borg beat Kevin Curren and Ivan Lendl in straight set on his way to the finals. He was very sharp as he overcame Lendl (7-6, 7-6) in a hard-fought match. Borg took a 4-1 lead in the second set, but Lendl came right back to take a 4-0 lead in the tie-breaker. Borg answered Lendl's powerful serves with his superb passing shots.

Connors broke twice in the opening set, but was broken in the ninth game. The best exchanges of the match came soon after. In the second set Borg was more erratic and he netted too many easy returns. A number of balls were hit long. His first serve was not impressive either. On the whole, he still looked rusty. Besides, Connors came up with some strong approach shots and aggressive volleying.

Borg's conquest of Lendl and McEnroe's return to form in the Davis Cup and in his last final against Connors promises an exciting season ahead in men's tennis. The war is on. McEnroe seems to be back in top form, but Borg is yet to be reborn.

Connors is in no mood to take things easy. In fact, the Open victory which earned him the undisputed No. 1 ranking for the first time since 1974, seems to have made him all the more determined and resourceful. At last he is improvising a lot and planning his tactics carefully against each opponent. He is as unfettered as a wild horse and McEnroe's talent, Borg's might and Lendl's venom will have to combine to stop him. Tennis couldn't hope for anything better than battles between this foursome.

# No Davis Cup in Calcutta

DEREK O' BRIEN

**T**HE state of tennis in West Bengal is a virtual quagmire. Over the years the administrators of the game have turned their offices into sites for battles of personalities. Each side blames the other for 'ruining the game in the State' and in the long run, it is only tennis which is the loser.

The Bengal Lawn Tennis Association are responsible for administration of the game in the State. The association is the parent body and all the tennis playing clubs in West Bengal are affiliated to it. However, only 14 of these clubs are elected onto the BLTA State Council and, as a result, directly take part in managing the affairs.

It is common knowledge that the Calcutta South Club is the premier tennis playing club, not only of Cal-

cutta, but surely of the country. Right from the Fifties the BLTA and the South Club have worked hand in hand. In 1953 they jointly organised the Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur Coaching Scheme. The head coach of that scheme was Dilip Bose, and the scheme produced players of the calibre of Jaideep Mukherjee, Akhtar Ali and Premjit Lal.

A few years later the All India Lawn Tennis Association took over the scheme, but the BLTA South Club relationship was still as amiable as ever. Bengal's lawn tennis body was allowed to use the courts of the South Club, and all the coaching schemes of the latter were conducted on the wonderful grass courts of the South Club situated at Woodburn Park. Here in itself lay the malady.

## WHY WAS AKHTAR ALI AXED?

**W**ITH regard to the nomination of tennis coaches for training Asian probables, there has been a lot of criticism in tennis circles. The blame for this falls squarely on the All-India Lawn Tennis Association. Indeed, the first man to have been on the panel should have been former Davis Cupper and coach Akhtar Ali. It is even more strange that it was the AILTA itself—which had deputed Akhtar Ali as the team coach for the Davis Cup matches against the USA at California—that brushed aside his name for the final tennis camp.

Akhtar has been the Davis Cup coach since 1966 during which tenure the Indian team reached the Challenge Round in 1966 and 1974. Added to this is his vast international experience as a coach. Ramathan Krishnan stated that Akhtar is the best coach available in India while Naresh Kumar vouched for the fact that Akhtar is one of the finest coaches in the country with a wealth of international experience.

Akhtar Ali has been coaching Vijay Amritraj a month prior to Wimbledon for the last four years. The latter thinks that Ali is "helluva coach and he can get the best out of the players." Others who train under

him say that Akhtar is Mr Terrible during training but fantastic off the court. Premjit Lal and Jaideep Mukherjee too are of the opinion that he is the best coach, as is evident by his record.

But strangely enough due to the shortsightedness of the AILTA, Akhtar Ali who is ready to do service for the nation, was discarded for less experienced coaches. What is the reason? One feels ashamed that a person like Mr Pallani who is not even a coach of the Madras Tennis Association, has been selected to train the probables. Does this also mean that Akhtar is not good enough to be a coach at that level? When asked at that Calcutta South Club about his reaction, Akhtar Ali smiled and said "No comments, please. But this is nothing new with the AILTA. They have treated me like this earlier."

In reply to India's chances at the Asian Games Mr Ali commented "Our team which toured abroad has not played even a single grass court tournament and at Delhi the game is going to be played on that particular surface."

SUBHASH SARCAR

The BLTA have never owned courts of their own. What explanation can the association offer for this? Lack of funds is not a sufficient excuse. They have had ample opportunities to fill their coffers. The Grand Prix was staged in Calcutta in 1975 and 1977 and the BLTA should have directed the profits of these two events in acquiring their own courts. This would have made the BLTA independent of the clubs affiliated to it especially, of course, the South Club whose courts they were still using. Besides the courts, the BLTA office was (and still is) situated in the premises of the South Club. However, after a few months, problems which had been bubbling for quite some time finally exploded.

**T**HE South Club with the ex Davis Cupper turned businessman-cum-commentator Naresh Kumar as its President decided that the BLTA were not conducting the coaching schemes properly, and as such decided after much conjecture not to allow the BLTA to continue anymore at the South Club.

To cut a long story short the BLTA licking their wounds of pride left the grass and hard courts of the South Club. The courts of the club were now to be booked by club members and also for coaching purposes.

One is not very certain how far the South Club have been succeeding in conducting their own coaching schemes, but that is another story.

The BLTA then held an Annual General Meeting (the first after 3 years) and it was decided here that the South Club along with the Saturday and Cossipore Clubs would no more be members of the State Council. Instead they would only be ordinary members of the BLTA. This decision was reached because the South Club had not paid their capitation fees over the last few years. The politics are endless, sickening. The tangle between the South Club and the BLTA is not going to be resolved in the near future.

One thing which is the result of this conflict is that the All India Lawn Tennis Association with Dilip Bose as its secretary cannot hold any Davis Cup matches in Calcutta. The AILTA will have to ask the BLTA for use of courts, of which the latter has none. The BLTA cannot even 'borrow' the South Club courts in the present circumstances.

The end result is simple. No more Davis Cup matches in Calcutta. Will Mr Dilip Bose and his 'associates' realise the gravity of the situation and attempt to patch up things? Undoubtedly, the South Club and its administrators do have their faults and it is a question of the pot calling the kettle black. It is sickening and sad to see the game of tennis dying in the city. Enough is enough. For once please put tennis and more of tennis before 'I', 'I', and more of 'I'.



# For the sake of pace

**PARTAB RAMCHAND** profiles the promising paceman, **T. A. Sekhar**

**T**HIRUMALAI ANANTHAPILLAI SEKHAR was born ten years too late. Had he been born in 1946 instead of 1956, which is his year of birth, he would not only have walked into the Indian team but also have been welcomed with open arms into it instead of having to fight his way into it like he has been forced to do now.

Just think of it. There is hardly any pace bowling tradition in India but in the Sixties and the early Seventies the state of affairs was indeed laughable. Among those who opened the bowling for India intermittently for about ten years in this period were Duriani, Chandrasekhar, Wadekar, Subramanyam, Pataudi, Kunderian and even Gavaskar, Jaisimha, of course, used to be the regular opening bowler.

Today ten years later, there is a surfeit of good fast medium to medium fast bowlers—Kapil Dev, Madan Lal, Sandhu, Valson and Sekhar. The competition, thus, is pretty stiff but Sekhar is determined to make it to the top.

Sekhar certainly has the right build for a fast bowler. He is 6'3" and weighs 81 kilos. The weight is, more or less, evenly distributed on a long, well built frame. He has strong arms and shoulders. He has long legs which have stood the strain of fast bowling at the national level for more than two years in the Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and the Wills Trophy competitions. With all this he initially gained a notorious reputation of being injury prone. All that was because of one ankle injury he had suffered playing in a match during the CAB (Cricket Association of Bengal) Golden Jubilee celebrations in Calcutta in January 1981. Sekhar probably aggravated the injury by playing for his club in a crucial league match on his return. That finished him off for the season and he missed the Ranji games against Karnataka, Haryana and Bombay.

It took some time for the injury to heal and Sekhar slowly limped back to normalcy and fought back into the Duleep reckoning with a string of notable performances in Madras. He had actually made his Duleep Trophy debut the year he played his first Ranji match in 1980. In fact, his first-class career was off to a dream start. He took a wicket—Shahid

Akbar caught behind—off the first ball he bowled in first-class cricket. This is a rare feat, performed only by very few in the long, long history of first-class cricket. Then, after playing in just that match against Hyderabad, he was straightaway pitchforked into the higher level of competition in the Duleep Trophy. Playing against Central Zone at Kanpur, Sekhar bagged five wickets for the match including a spell of four in the second innings and scored a bright 58 to boot at number nine. This heady start seemed to hold much promise but then came that injury that saw Sekhar out of the headlines for some time.

When Sekhar burst upon the national scene two years ago, there were many with sufficient cricketing background—players, officials and journalists—who saw in him a future Indian fast bowler. His height and physique were the first things to attract attention. Then of course, came his performance on the field. Even at that time he had genuine speed which he has increased by a couple of yards now. At the moment, even the most knowledgeable among cricket enthusiasts feel that he is as fast as Kapil. Moreover, because of his greater height, he certainly is the tallest fast bowler playing at the national level and is able to make the ball lift from even the most docile of wickets. That is Sekhar's chief asset. On the more livelier wicket at the Chepauk, this writer has frequently seen him make the ball rise to alarming heights from spots just short of a length. This, added to his speed, makes it disconcerting for the batsman. Milind Gunjal was Sekhar's latest victim in last month's Duleep Trophy game. Even after seeing the ball very well and building his score diligently to 69, he could not fathom an extra-fast delivery and got the ball straight on his mouth. So severe was the injury that Gunjal not only missed further part in the match, but had to miss the final also.

All this is not to say that Sekhar is a dangerous bowler. He can be if the situation warrants, and only on a really helpful wicket.

And now even the most experienced of cricketers have an encouraging word for him. After his superb display against West Zone in last month's Duleep semi final—

Sekhar himself ranks this as his best-ever performance—Ashok Manjwad told him that he had talent and with practice and hard work he had a good chance of making it to the top. Kurmani has said that he is one of the quickest bowlers he has kept wickets to and one must remember that he has kept wickets also for Kapil, Abid Ali, Ghavri, Yograj, Madan Lal and Randhir Singh.

Though he has played under Venkataraghavan, Vishwanath, Madan Lal and Brijesh Patel at the national level, Sekhar says the best captain he has played under has been Bharath Reddy, who leads the Chemplast Club for which Sekhar plays in local League cricket. "He understands fast bowlers, their wants and their temperaments," Reddy has used him in short spells—the way a fast bowler usually likes to bowl. A bowler like Sekhar should not be asked to bowl for two hours at a stretch, and yet, when Vishwanath demanded this of him in the Duleep semi final against West Zone, Sekhar rose to the occasion, taking seven wickets. That was the performance that brought him into the Rest of India team and into national reckoning.

Reddy himself says that he has had to goad Sekhar into self confidence. By nature Sekhar is shy, reserved, a maverick—a person who seldom speaks unless spoken to. Reddy instilled that confidence into him. "I was always confident that here was someone who really had a good chance of playing for India and I told him to give that much extra in his bowling, to go all out, whether he was bowling in short spells or long, whether he was having the new ball or old."

A striking figure on the field, because of his enormous height and awesome build, Sekhar loves to field in close catching positions. He was a below average fielder but again through sheer hard work he has improved considerably. Like others of his breed, Sekhar likes to use the long handle to good effect and he had that fine knock of 58 against his name in his first Duleep Trophy match. That he is trying to improve still was witnessed in the Duleep semi final, when he helped Jahbar add 51 runs for the last wicket, his share being 19 not out. During that innings, there was no slogging but strong defence mixed with judicious aggression.

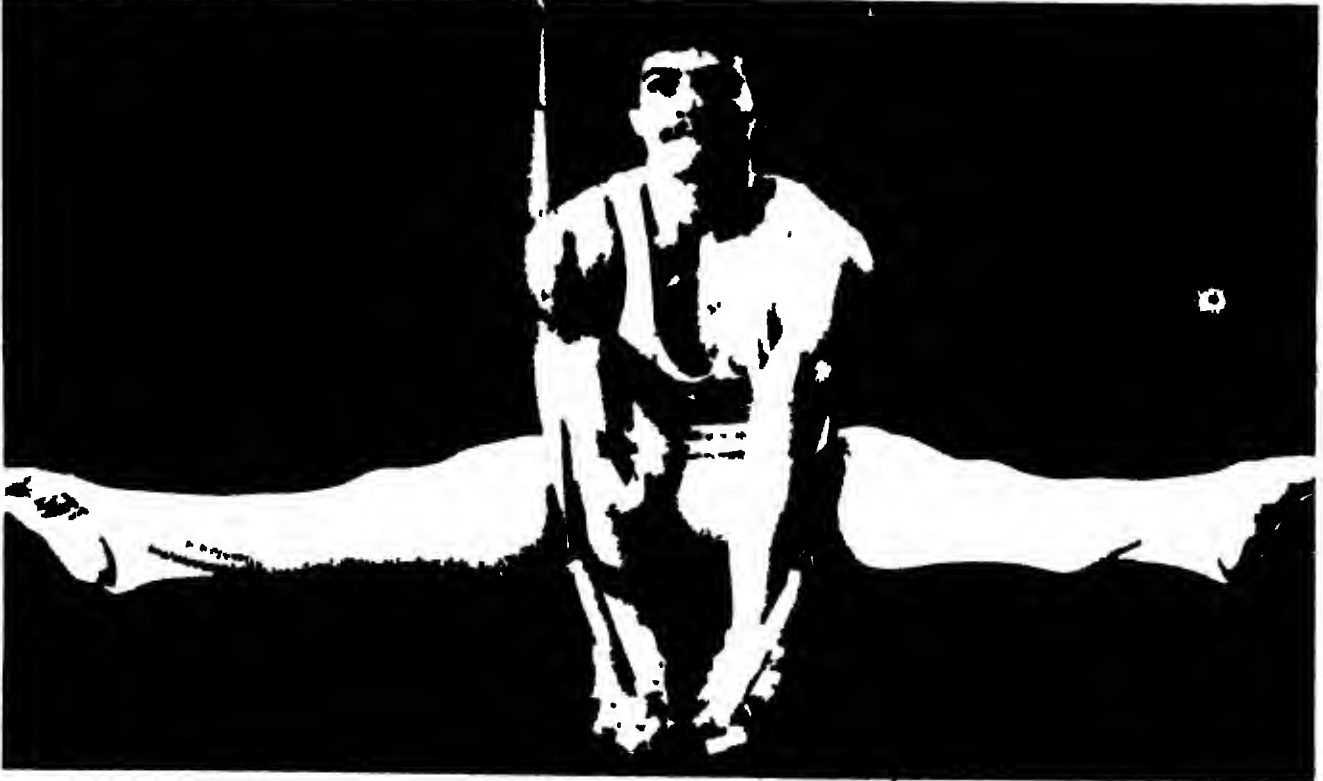
Sekhar could only narrowly have missed selection for the tour of Pakistan. But that one day he will wear a Test cap is almost certain. He has the skill, ability, the stamina and now the confidence, too, to make it to the top. And it is only a matter of time before he does so.

## **West Germany's great leap forward**



*Windsurfing A craze, and the sport will soon be an Olympic discipline*

*Jurgen Geger who won five titles at the German Gymnastics Championships*





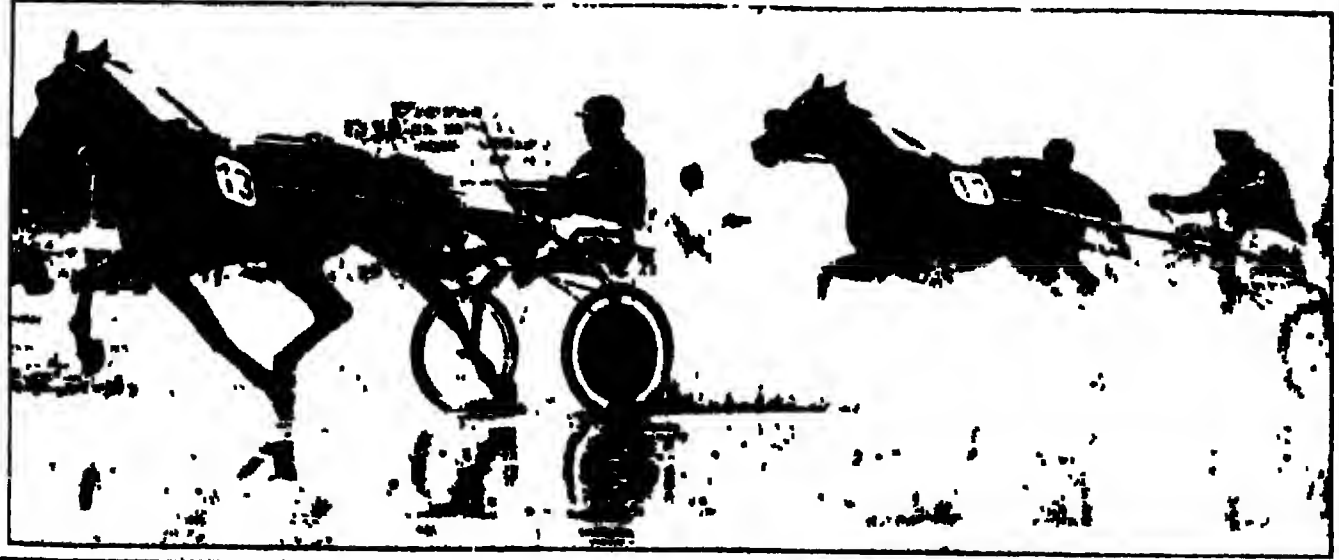


Jurgen Hingsen recently broke the world decathlon record



Claudia Bruppacher poses after taking part in the 27th World Roller Skating Championships

The annual trotting races at Cuxhaven



# ALL IN THE GAME

## TREATMENT FOR BORG

*Of tennis players and osteopaths*

**B**arry Savory, the well known osteopath from Baker Street, has played a major part in the ever-improving public presence of Denis Healey, Maggie Thatcher (popularly known as the 'Iron Lady') and other famous people

Savory, a one-time athlete is at it again. His latest recruit is the tennis player Bjorn Borg. Savory was elated when the tennis superstar's coach Lennart Bengelin telephoned and made a date with the osteopath for Borg. The eight hour session devoted to posture and breathing exposed Borg's limitations as an athlete. The treatment was quite liked by the 5 times Wimbledon champion as he promised to be back with Savory when he plays during the 'Big Fournight' next year.

Barry Savory will have the privilege of attending all the Super Swede's matches to work out in detail Borg's response to postural exercises. The osteopath might just do the trick. Did I hear some one say that Messrs. Connors and McInnis were also queuing up?

## THE HOUSE OF LLOYDS

*Extravaganza indeed*

**D**avid Lloyd in more ways than one has always loved the game of tennis. His dedication to the game nearest his heart, as he puts it is "total"

Normally a mild introvert, Lloyd transforms dramatically when on the subject of tennis. At least that is what his associates must have thought when he jumped out of his chair to express an idea which many had earlier dismissed as fantasy.

After a year in construction the Lloyd's extravaganza, the David Lloyd Alesager Racquet Club was finally 'unveiled' by the British Minister for Sport Neil MacFarlane.

Lloyd said that he had earlier managed a club on these lines in Toronto. He knew how to make money and that "the amenities in this place are second to none."

The British tennis star knows what he is talking about because the club boasts of 11 synthetic courts, 3 junior courts, badminton and squash courts, a gym and (hold your breath) even a sauna bath. Who knows this just might be the cradle for future champions of Britain. Good luck Mr Lloyd.

## BRAKE NECK SPEED

*Grand Prix drivers to slow down*

**G**rand Prix racing and speed have always been synonymous. So it did come as a surprise when G.P. racing teams said "yes" to drastic changes in rules which will come into effect from next year. The new rules will see to it that the speeds of the vehicles are reduced, thereby increasing the safety of track officials, spectators and the drivers themselves.

The International Auto Sports Federation (FISA), the governing body of motor racing passed the new rules by voting at a meeting of its executive committee. The first reaction of most teams was

that there was not sufficient time to modify their vehicles to cut down on speed. However, soon there was a change of heart and Hey Presto! The teams surprisingly agreed.

The representatives of the racing teams went one further. Earlier FISA had ordered the rules to be implemented from the European Race in April '83. Instead the teams decided that they would cooperate with the "reduced speed and increased safety" formula (pun intended) from as early as February '83 when the South African Grand Prix will be held.

The legendary Austrian Nicki Lauda speaking on behalf of the drivers, also demanded slower, safer and less punishing cars. There were many who agreed with Lauda and we'll see the speedometer reading a few m.p.h. less and even the scale of broken spines and necks.

## TIME CHARTER WINS

*Fillies to the fore*

**S**printing easily away from her rivals as she came up the hill at Newmarket at the end of October, Time Charter completed the rout of the stronger sex that Akidye had started when pipping Ardros in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. This must surely be the season of shocks and female fruitfulness.

Time Charter trained by Henry Candy and ridden by W. Newnes won by seven long lengths from two complete outsiders—Prima Voce (50-1) and Noalto at 40-1.

A couple of hundred metres after the start the 22-year-old Newnes found little room to manoeuvre as Montekin challenged

the favourite and the pace-maker Kalaglow. The latter who will soon be retired to stud fell back giving Time Charter the gap to coast to an easy victory.

It was a proud moment for Mrs Elizabeth Roberts part owner of the winner and a former golf champion as she received the glittering trophy from Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai. Incidentally the family of the Sheikh have put in £50,000 for this sponsored Champion Stakes which now carries their kingdom's name.

**RACE WHISPER** The 2 to 1 on favourite Gorytus unbelievably finished 30 lengths behind the winner Diestis (30-1) in the William Hill Dewhurst Stakes at New Market.

## BODY-BUILDING BEHIND BARS

*Rage in the prisons*

**B**ody building is the latest craze in all prisons of Great Britain. Undoubtedly, the best place for body building prisoners is the Hull top security jail. Most of the inmates there use the gymnasium in the prison and some of them, it is learnt, have even reached the standard of the Mr Great Britain competition. It would not be surprising if some of the prisoners are even allowed to take part.

At the time of writing, the prisoners cum body-builders some of whom are serving sentences for murder and armed robbery are training for a special Christmas event at the prison. It is expected that some of the leading body builders of Europe will also take part.

Unfortunately, the inmates are not consuming much of protein-plus foods.

# COUNT DOWN 3

## *Crowd control will always be a problem*

**W**HILE our footballers were taking a beating from the visiting Kuban Club from the Soviet Union at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the crowd management department of the Asian Games Special Organising Committee (SOC), on trial at the gates, were also found totally wanting.

With hardly any time to go for the Asian Games to open would they be able to do all that was necessary to ensure a semblance of order and dignity at the gates? That was the question that was being asked by many a seasoned organiser of sport who found himself being knocked ab out in the chaotic crowd.

From what one saw at the gates, obviously the SOC were found unprepared to manage a big crowd. Among those who had a taste, a bitter one, of what it felt like to be a member of the ordinary public was no other than the president of the Indian Olympic Association himself.

Caught in the wave of spectators trying to gain entry, Raja Bhalendra Singh was thrown to the ground. But he providentially escaped being trampled by the stampeding crowd. There were many others, including reporters, and the secretaries of Delhi's two major football tournaments, the Durand and DCM, who were bruised and battered before they could gain entry into the stadium.

The police, who bore the brunt of it all at the outer gates, came under a fusillade of bricks and other missiles from an angry Sunday night crowd for whom the match was their first, and never-to-be-lost opportunity of

watching big football under floodlights.

Chastened by the experience, officials of the SOC have been busy drawing the appropriate lessons. But if only they had done their homework, the breakdown in the Bandorust would not have occurred in the first place.

The SOC have set up two gates committees—gates committee I and gates committee II—with high-ranking army and police officers serving. A better performance was expected of these gentlemen. The Delhi area commander looked helplessly on as hell broke loose.

There are men in Delhi who have ample experience of managing crowds at the gates at football matches. If only their active co-operation had been sought and their advice listened to, countless football fans would have been spared the harrowing experience.

There was no excuse for the organisers not to have provided railings for the crowds to keep moving in an orderly fashion in single lines. The moment spectators are held up at the gates even for a minute they become restive and difficult to control. This is what happened at the gates of Nehru Stadium that Sunday night.

Also, where were the mounted police who are a common sight wherever a crowd is expected to gather? Not only should they be present in adequate numbers during the Asian Games, but to make their job easier, the lighting outside the stadium should be improved further.

Another important lesson to

be learnt was meant for the traffic police. For many, it took 15 minutes to crawl through the traffic jam on the brand new Sewa Nagar flyover on the western side. Traffic was further impeded by the hundreds who kept crossing the road after being disgorged from buses coming from South Delhi.

Overhead bridges or underground tunnels would have helped, but now it is too late to build these.

There was plenty of space once inside the stadium. But even here everything was not as it should be. The media were constantly disturbed by spectators making their way to their seats in front. The ushers were not adequately trained for their job. One fears for the worst unless drastic steps are taken to improve the arrangements.

There is also considerable worry on another front. Now that the stadium have been built, the Indian Olympic Association are worried about the actual technical conduct of the Asian Games.

For all the shortcomings noticed during the open meet in September, we do have athletics officials experienced enough to conduct the Games meet. But the same cannot be said about our officials in a few other disciplines.



**ISA SLR**  
**The Sporty Bike**

“

“Talk of Derek Pringle's ankle injury from stretching after writing a letter, and of Tony Greig damaging his ankle in a bridge match, suggests that no man is safe but in his bed.

But wait. A reader reminds us that the Australian wicket-keeper Gil Langley missed the Manchester Test in 1956 (lacking a mate to bet on) because on the previous night he slept on his hand and damaged it.”—Norman Harris (*The Sunday Times*)

”

“ALL fighting fit not much time to prepare for the first Test.

We will really be working on close catching and also formulating plans to 'hide' a few of the more camel-like members of our party.”—Bob Willis, captain of the England team before their departure for Australia.

‘To be truly worthwhile any experiments in team selection must involve new comers, or relative newcomers, operating alongside those already established in the side’—David Lacey.

“The untidiness of the closing ceremony was a pertinent reminder that the Commonwealth Games needs to build a new structure, retrieve some old disciplines and find better ways of presenting its sportsmen of world class with those who are not much above modest domestic level.”—John Reida.

“The Football League Cup is now the Milk Cup backed by a £2 millions sponsorship from the National Dairy Council over the next five years.”—*The Guardian*.

“SO pervasive has the

effect of sport become in our lives that monitoring sport on television means monitoring everything on television, just in case. Some of the most revealing moments come not from sport programmes at all but as by-products of something else.”—Benny Green (*The Guardian*).

“This was more emotional for me than winning the Olympic title. After all I have gone through this summer I can believe in myself again.”—Allan Wells, British athlete after his victory in the 100 metres at the recently-concluded Commonwealth Games at Brisbane.

“It is easy to make fun of the bowlers, especially now that it includes the sex-tested grannies in their plots. It is the nearest the Commonwealth Games get to the original concept of a Pan-Britannic festival.”—Matthew Engel.

“Buster Mottram is fast becoming to British tennis what the Fifth Cavalry was to the American Army.”—David Irvine (*The Guardian*).

‘The greatest need facing Robson is, if not a fast woman, than at least some fast men’—*The Guardian* about the New England soccer manager Bobby Robson.

“At international level there is no substitute for experience, as Italy proved beyond doubt in Spain. Robson has to preserve the balance between an infusion of fresh blood and recognition of those who have served England well.”—David Lacey.

“Contrary to received opinion, the Australians are an obedient race. They have placidly undergone metrication and compulsory seat-belt wearing. Getting half the population of Queensland in the arena pretending to be a map of Australia was

“

## SPORT QUOTE

”

no problem. The only dissident in a cast of thousands was a recalcitrant pigeon.”—*The Guardian* on the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games.

“I’m bitterly disappointed at the attitude of the Australians. I realise conditions were not the best but we made the effort, so why couldn’t they?”—David Moor, 100m after three Australian athletes pulled out of the 3000 metres event at a meet in Sydney.

“The fact that we are not good enough to battle against the odds has nothing to do with our being gutless. We are not a gutless side. The opposition is outplaying us and we are cowering from a lack of practice.”—Colin Edgar, Manager of the Australian team that toured Pakistan recently.

“And the truth is, alas that there is no English Rummikub. Analogies with Kevin Keegan are absurd, by comparison with the German he is a hewer of wood and a drawer of water.”—Brian Glanville in the *Sunday Times*.

“Our aggressiveness, up-your-nose attitude is prevalent because of our isolation and our colonialism, of course—and the sense that Englishmen,

having invented cricket, resent our playing it.”—Greg Chappell.

“For India the lessons were clear. Indian sportsmen have a tough battle on their hands at the Ninth Asiad. Hopefully, the broad but overworked shoulders of the Indian matmen will not have to carry the burden, as they did so gracefully in Brisbane.”—*India Today*.

“Shame on the cricketing lepers.”—Heading in *Daily Mirror*, a state owned newspaper of Sri Lanka deploring the clandestine tour of South Africa by 14 Lankan players.

“Imagine you’re driving your car along a flat road, cruising in top gear. Then a hill looms, and you sail up it on your momentum. Then another hill, with no time to switch to a more powerful gear, so you keep your foot on the floorboards, and rely on that previous momentum. Maybe you get up it, maybe you don’t.”—Cliff Temple on the challenge England had to face at the Brisbane.

I find it extremely difficult to understand why it should be considered at best indelicate and at worst outrageous to criticise a cricket umpire, when one is apparently free to wade into anyone in any other walk of life.”—Asif Iqbal.

Tactics per se are secondary to individuals. The Hungarians of Puskas, Kocsis, Bozsik were marvellous because they had a clutch of marvellous players. When those players had gone, gone too was the Hungarian team.”—Brian Glanville.

“Fast left handers have always prospected in Australia. Alex Bedser and May have good cause to remember Bill Johnstone and Alan Davidson, and Insole will appreciate how Geoff Dymock has served Australia recently.”—Robin Marlar.

## Regional round-up

### PUNE

#### Gavaskar and Solkar lose double wicket tourney

**G**OOD Press coverage attracted a holiday and colourful capacity crowd of 25,000 at the Park Stadium to witness a double wicket tourney involving 6 pairs of players vying with each other for the 1st prize of Rs 2,002.

It was indeed very hot in the day time at Sholapur and the wicket was devoid of any grass whatsoever. The star pair of Gavaskar and Solkar were favourites to win but all predictions were proved wrong when the Sidhaye cousins (Maharashtra Ranji players) Pravin and Pradip, hammered 83 runs to top the table pipping the Gavaskar-Solkar duo to second place with 70 runs. Pandurang Salgaonkar (former India pace-man for unofficial Tests) and former Test star Bhagwat Chandrasekhar cracked a fluent 63 to finish third.

Bombay men Shishui Hattangaoi and Vijay Bhosale (49), Raju Bhalekar and Ramesh Borde (36) and veterans Polly Umrigar and Bapu Nadkarni with 30 runs to their credit followed down the ladder.

This competition saw a lot of sixes being hit much to the pleasure of the crowds. Salgaonkar with four and Gavaskar with two were the entertainers.

Sunil Gavaskar in typical Ian Botham style clowned a lot keeping the crowds thrilled till the end. The dashing Test star Sandip Patil who could not play due to a shoulder injury did the job of an umpire much to the amusement of the spectators. The cousins Pravin and Pradip Sidhaye donated their winnings to Baba Sidhaye Shyam Oak. The limited over 'Man of the Match' also donated his award (Rs 1,001) to the ex-Ranji star.

RAHUL CHANDAWARKAR

### CALCUTTA

#### Aeromodelling treat

**I**t is an expensive sport. And like all sports where enthusiasts have to cough up quite some amount of money, this one—eromodelling—is not very popular. More than a sport, the thrill of flying aeroplanes is also a useful and interesting hobby.

With an eye to popularising the sport the Society of Model Aero-Nautical Engineers of India organised the East Zone Aeromodelling Rally in the second half of October. The rally was held at the Behala Civil Aerodrome, the home of the sport in the city.

Under ideal conditions the first event of the morning—demonstration flights by radio control models got underway. The model aeroplanes were a treat to watch as they first took off (some from a 'runway' and others by hand) after which they settled down to carry out bouts of manoeuvres.

A fair city from the radio control models were the gliders. The absence of motors and batteries, however, in no way deterred their popularity. Two very popular events enjoyed by the holiday crowd were the hand gliding and the tow gliding. Most of the participants in these events were young NCC cadets some of whom had come from far away Nagpur. The gliders were helped by a pleasant breeze. They slowly gained in height and were in the air for quite a few minutes. There was tremendous enthusiasm shown by all participants,

though special mention ought to be made of the many youngsters from the First Bihar NCC Squadron.

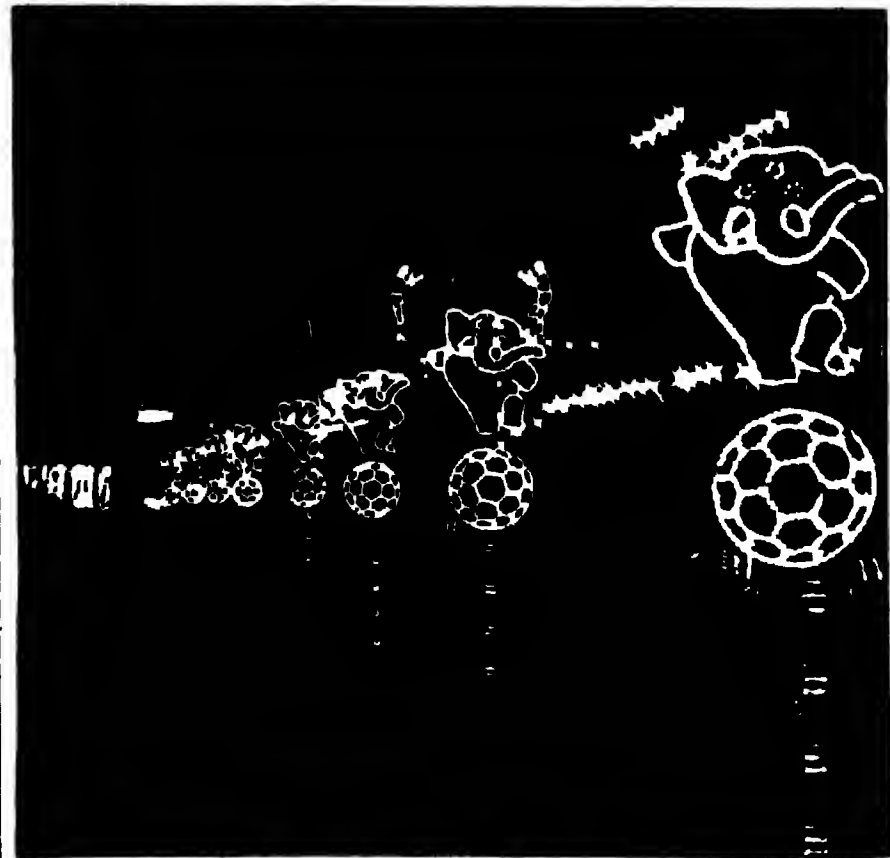
One event which held a lot of promise but eventually disappointed was the sea-plane event. None of the models could get off the ground because of hyacinth obstructing the otherwise clear stretch of water. However, the 'static' models for display were very impressive. It was a morning well spent.

DEREK BRIEN

### CHANDIGARH

#### Haryana State T.T.

**A**s usual Chandigarh players once again dominated in the Haryana State Table Tennis Championships which concluded at Surajpur a few miles from here. A unique feature of this year's championships was that in seven of the nine events new champions emerged. Ritu Maini of Chan-



**APPU IN CALCUTTA!** Not really, but then in one sense yes. Asid lever has also gripped Calcutta. The city, as usual was bathed with multicoloured lights during the recently concluded Durga Puja festivities and a pandal—that of the Padmapukur Barawan Samity—was innovative in the choice of lights that led up to the goddess. Photograph shows Appu not in flesh and blood but made up of lights.



digarh literally walked away with three crowns, the women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles

In the men's singles giant-killer Vivek Aggarwal got a hammering at the hands of the Chandigarh based Rakesh Sharma. Last year's champion Tilakrai had conceded the match in the inter-district finals due to a muscular strain. In fact, the men's singles final was a one-sided affair. Aggarwal went down in three straight games. He seemed to have been overawed by the big occasion.

The women's singles, however, did provide good table tennis with another Chandigarh based girl Charandevara starting with promise against Ritu and winning the first game rather easily conceding eleven points and leading 17-13 in the second. A little relaxation at this stage cost her the title. Ritu soon caught up to make it 19-all and won over extra points. However, then there were no stopping Ritu.

Charan had earlier lost to last year's champion Sunitaghuman in the girls singles final. The only other player to retain the title was Vikram Paul in the boys singles. He had demolished fancied Vivek Aggarwal in a well contested four games. Charu had the consolation of winning the women's doubles in partnership with Ritu.

SATISH KUMAR

## MADRAS

### Another feather in the TTPWA cap

WITH the north-east monsoon finally making its presence felt with a bang, there was no possibility of conducting outdoor sports in the city in the third week of October. Thus the spotlight throughout the period was predictably on indoor sports.

V M Ravi Venkatesh defeated N R Bharat 21-19, 21-16, 21-14 to win the men's singles title in the Rayapettah Y M C A Table Tennis tournament. The lanky Venkatesh with his heavy top spin drives and forehand smashes proved too strong for the mop haired Bharath, a college student. In the semi finals, Ravi Venkatesh easily brushed aside the fragile challenge of H P Joshi 21-11, 21-16, 21-9 while Bharath had to beat back a spirited fight from young Vineth, a schoolboy, before winning 22-20, 16-21, 21-17, 21-14.

The Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Players Welfare Association, which is doing splendid service to the game in the city, was very much in the news throughout the week. First a coaching centre—the third of its

kind organised by the TTPWA—was inaugurated at the Mylapore Club. The centre is being run with the cooperation of the club. Fifteen juniors are undergoing training from the former national champion V Sivaraman. The camp will go on for twelve months with four classes a week and by the end of it, a worthy second line should have been found to succeed players like Chandrasekhar, Hari and Chandramouli. The other two coaching centres have already been going on at the Don Bosco School for the last 20 months and at the Church Park Girls School for the last two months.

The TTPWA also conducted during the week its second Sub-Junior Scholarship Tournament at the Olympic Recreation Club premises. Anand Verghese of Don Bosco School, with an all win record in his four matches in the final league stage was the winner. P Jayakumar, S Thirunavakkarasu and H K Madhukar all tied for second place with a similar win-loss record. But Jayakumar was adjudged second on superior points quotient.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

## BANGALORE

### Bangalore Golf Club's Centenary Championship

DELHI's Ranjit Nanda pocketed the Bangalore Golf Club Centenary Open Championships for the second year running. Nanda who is also a probable for the Asian Games, has just returned from a coaching camp held in England. He proved that he was superior to the rest of the competitors from the very start.

He took the lead on the first day itself, followed by Kanwal Inder Singh (winner of the Karnataka Open Championship), Amit Luthra, John D'Souza and B K Gajraj. But the player to shine on the second day was another Delhite, Amit Luthra. He completed the second round with a total of 149. Nanda had a two round total of 147. On the third day, Nanda retained the top position by playing some consistent golf and finished the day with a three round total of 220, seven strokes ahead of his nearest rival Kanwal Inder Singh of Coimbatore, who had a three round total of 227. Amit Luthra gave a disappointing display of golf and finished 12 over par and zoomed down from his previous day's second spot to finish 5 strokes behind Kanwal Inder Singh. Anand Desai was fourth with a three round total of 243.

On the final day of the championships the large number of golf

enthusiasts watched some disappointing golf from the leaders—Ranjit Nanda, Kanwal Inder Singh and Amit Luthra. Nanda had two birdies on the 7th and 17th and reached the coveted top spot with a four round total of 300. Kanwal Inder Singh played 8 over and finished with 306 to take the second place followed by Amit Luthra of Delhi who had a four rounds total of 317. But the best round of golf on the final day was provided by John D'Souza who finished fourth with 320, with a superb 73 on the last day.

The team championship was won by the Delhi Golf Club team of Ranjit Nanda and Amit Luthra who won by 29 strokes over the Karnataka Golfing Association team of John D'Souza and B K Gajraj.

The handicap event was won by K B Dutt who had a score of 146 followed by Alok Sanyal with 147. The centenary attracted 31 golfers, 14 of whom were outstation entries.

SHANTHI MOHANRANGAM

## TRIVANDRUM

### Calicut win Varsity football

CALICUT University annexed the South Zone Inter-University football title for the fifth consecutive time when they edged out a doughty Madras by a solitary first half goal held at the Veterinary College Grounds, Trichur. This is the tenth time the University is entering the all India league.

Right inside Ranjit, who represented Kerala juniors in the Nationals at Pondicherry and dished out a sterling performance there, booted in the match winner in the fourth minute of the first half. He capitalised on a defensive lapse of Madras right-back Oslar, who failed to intercept a cross from Calicut left-in Vincent. It was a beautiful goal that beat Madras custodian Manoj Kumari completely hands down.

The Calicut Madras tie was a keen tussle right from the start. The Calicut boys were superior in every department of the game and their coach Usman Koya deserves praise for bringing up to every inter varsity tournaments new bunch of promising youngsters.

### P. J. Joseph for Munich

P J JOSEPH, the holder of six national records, has been selected to represent India in the 1982 World Powerlifting Championships at Munich. Joseph is the only Kerala lifter in the 10-member Indian team for the world meet and is representing India for the fourth consecutive year.

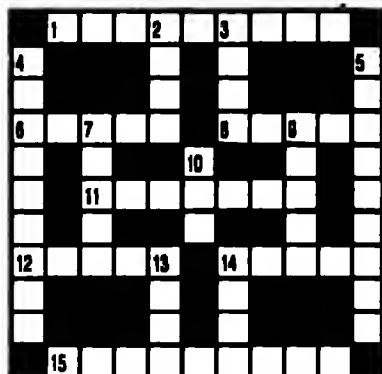
M P SURESH



# Crossword

BMUDAR

171



## ACROSS

- 1 Czech tennis player of top ranking has a 'Ternble' beginning (4, 5)
- 6 Economic name for a former England bowler of the Seventies (5)
- 8 A Hemmings and a Barlow have something to share (5)
- 11 Soviet chess player has a geographical feature hidden in between (7)
- 12 This Nick is no County cricketer, only a golfer who returns (5)
- 14 He irked Hitler at the Berlin Olympics, the answer returning (5)
- 15 Woman badminton player has a term of molestation in the middle (4, 5)

## DOWN

- 2 Sports shoe manufacturers (4)
- 3 Fencing equipment that begins and ends with a direction (4)
- 4 Term used by County cricketers and critics for a shot across the line of flight to leg (3,5)
- 5 Former manager of England's football team ends in a cricketer's name (9)
- 7 Indian drink for a great long distance runner who returns (5)
- 9 One of the lesser known of the Hadlee family (5)
- 10 Chandrasekhar Initially (1, 1)  
13 Football's governing body (1, 1, 1, 1)
- 14 Britain's well mannered athletic champion (1, 3)

Excellent: 16-15, Good: 14-13, Fair: 12-11.

# Question box

Sudhir Vadya

D. N. Borgsenkar, Hyderabad.

Q Who has scored the most number of half centuries in Tests?

A G Boycott of England, who has hit a maximum of 42 half centuries, excluding his 22 centuries in 108 Tests

Q Who holds the record for the most catches in Tests? How far is Sunil Gavaskar away from the world record?

A M C Cowdrey of England has held a maximum of 120 catches in 114 Tests Sunil Gavaskar with his 71 catches in 79 Tests is 49 catches away from the world record

V. I. N Seethopalla, Kakinada.

Q When a bowler bowls a ball and it hits the stumps without the bats falling down, can the batsman be adjudged out?

A No, the batsman is out only when one of the bats has fallen

Q Please give the Test record of Ravi Shastri

A He has played 12 Tests, 16 innings, has been thrice not out, has scored 281 runs, with 93 as his highest score, 21 61 average, two fifties, two ducks, seven catches, 2979 balls, 153 maidens, 1014 runs, 31 wickets, 32 70 average, once with five or more wickets in an innings

Dr. Santosh P V, Kallikad

Q How many runs did Sir Donald Bradman make in Tests against India in India? What were his scores against India?

A Bradman never played in India However, when the Indians played a five Test series in Australia in 1947-48, Bradman scored 715 runs in six innings of five-Tests with twice not out at the average of 178 75

Aravinda Patnaik, Digapokandi

Q What is the Test record of Kapil Dev? In how many Tests did he complete the "double"?

A He has played in 42 Tests, 61 innings, six times not, 1821 runs, with 126 not out as his highest score, 33 10 average, two centuries, 10 half centuries, six ducks, 15 catches, 9389 balls,

322 maidens, 4812 runs, 163 wickets, 29 52 average, 12 times with over five wickets in an innings and once over 10 in a match Kapil Dev completed the "double" of 1000 runs and 100 wickets in his 25th Test

Amrapali Sehgal, Calcutta.

Q Which State does Ravi Shastri play from? Where was he born?

A Ravi Shastri plays for Bombay in the Ranji Trophy tournament He was born in Bombay

Q In how many Tests has Sunil Gavaskar captained India?

A In 34 Tests

P Balakrishnan, Vadookara

Q Who is the bowler who has taken the highest number of wickets in Test?

Continued on page 42

# Quiz

I Ranyt Ghose

## QUESTIONS

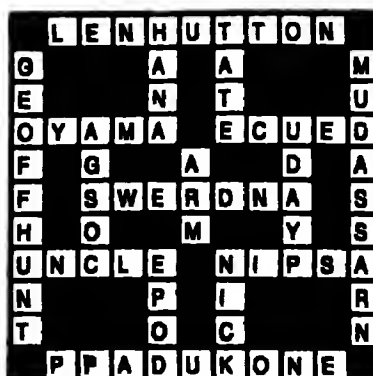
Fill in the blanks (No 4 to 10 refer to the 1982 World Cup soccer championships)

- 1 Archery is the art of shooting arrows from a bow at a —
- 2 Margaret Joyce Cooper, the famous English swimmer of the Thirties married her compatriot —, who himself was an Olympic gold medalist
- 3 George Alan Thomas, after whom Thomas Cup, the international badminton championship trophy is named was a famous badminton player of —
- 4 "West Germany is Rummenigge and ten —", said Pele
- 5 About one of —'s goals (against —) Pele said "I would be happy if I could count such a goal among my 1,200"
- 6 West Germany lost 1-2 to Algeria, a —to-1 shot at betting parlours
- 7 "Playing Brazil was like playing in the 21st century" said —, the — coach
- 8 The former England star — predicted "The team to beat Brazil will win the World Cup"
- 9 The — coach said "When we qualified, people said it was through the back door Now we are halfway up the front steps"
- 10 —, the Soviet referee made a mess of everything in the France-Kuwait match

## ANSWERS

- 1 target
- 2 John Badcock
- 3 England
- 4 robots
- 5 Rummenigge's, Chile
- 6 2,000
- 7 John Adshead, New Zealand
- 8 Bobby Charlton
- 9 English
- 10 Mikhail Stupar

## SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 170

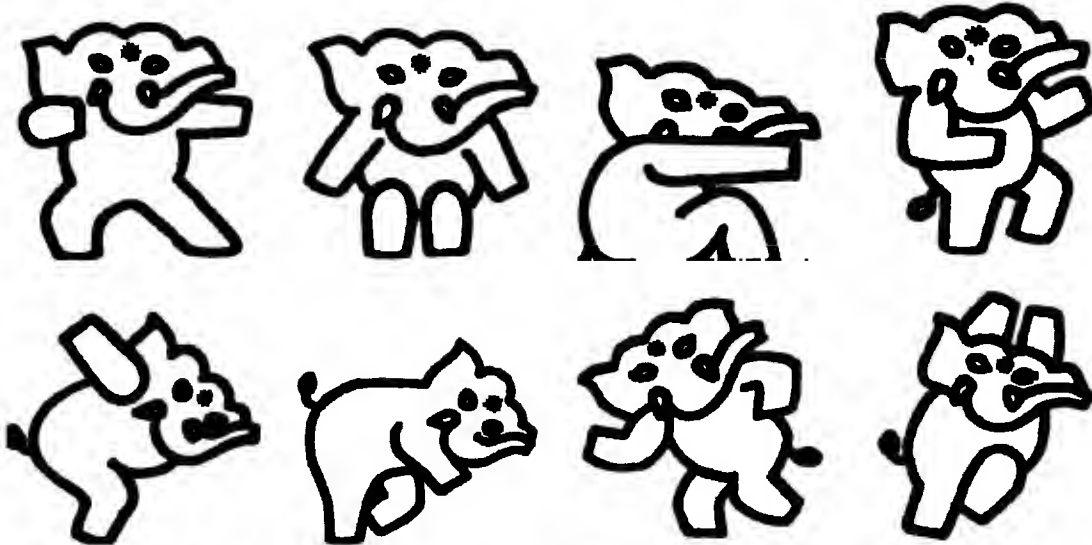




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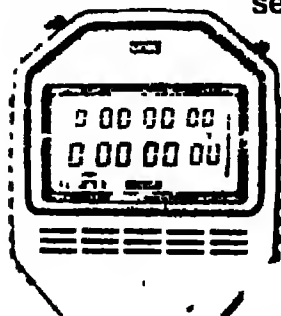


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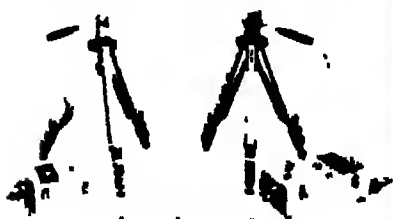
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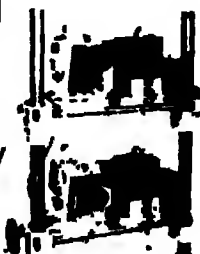
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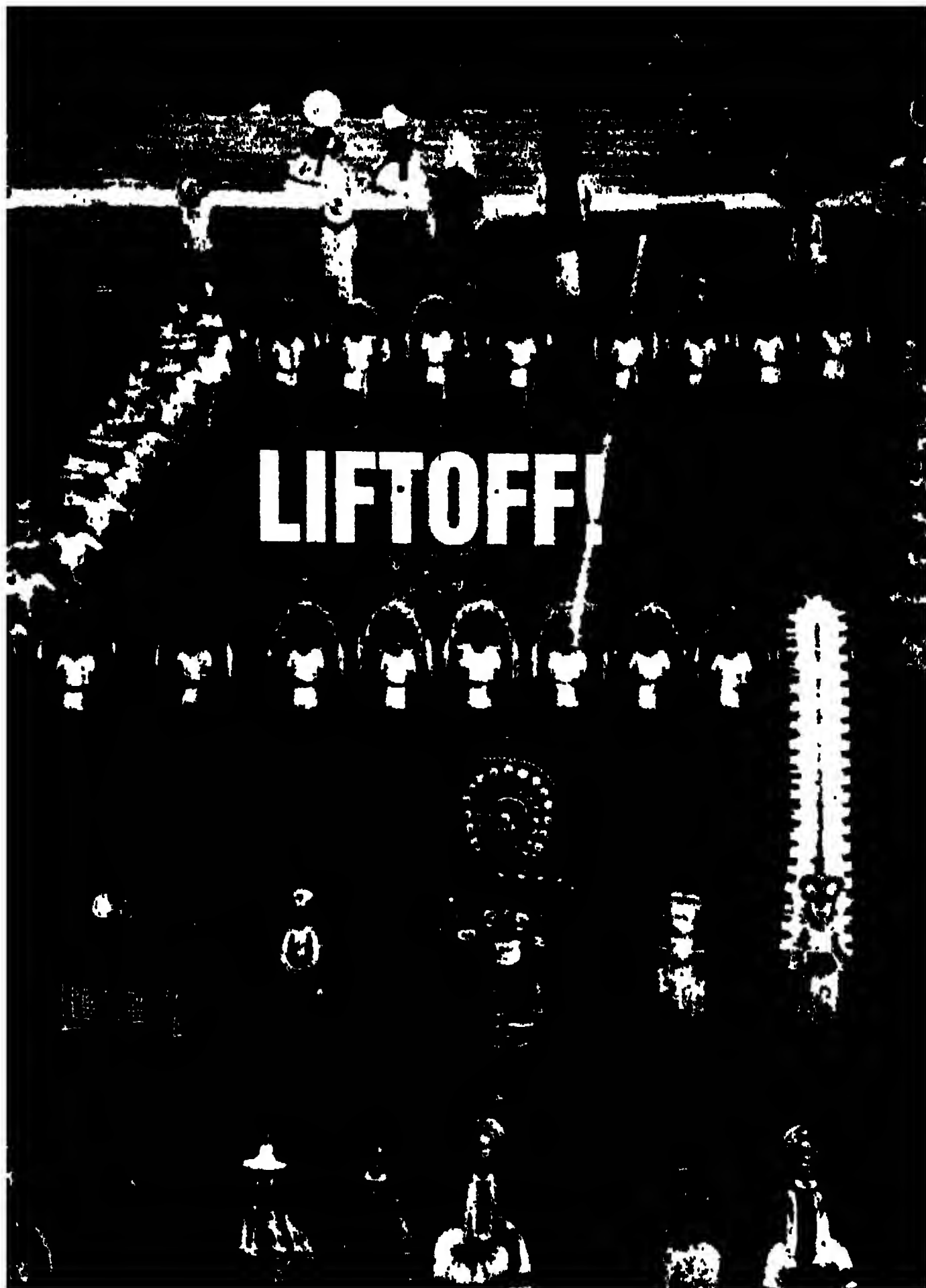
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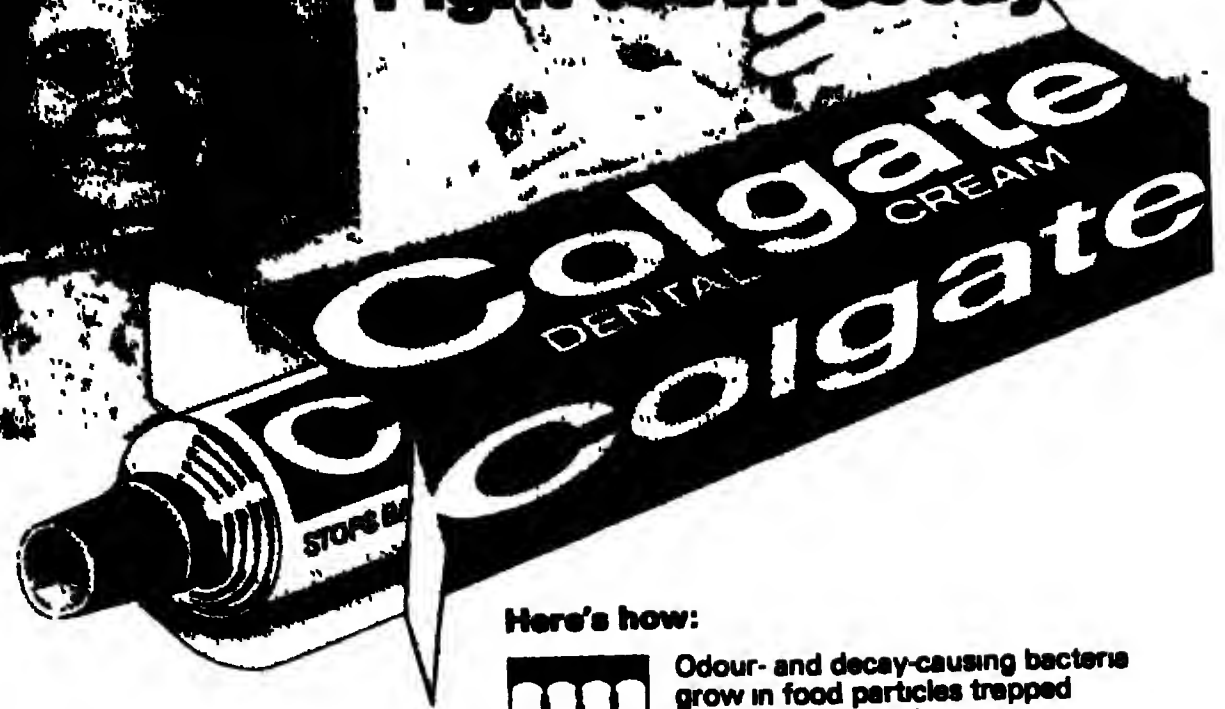


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The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was declared open by the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi at a mock ceremony and dress rehearsal before the Asiad. ARIJIT SEN reports

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Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
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Ashok Kamath

## Letters to the Editor

### Way of satisfaction

TO blame the umpires in Test cricket without showing any proper proof is now a way of satisfaction for the losers but Mr. Praveen Damodar seems to have become blind considering his patriotic feelings, as evident from his letter published in this column in the issue of 13 October.

Pakistan has now emerged as a great cricketing power not only because of her 3-0 sweep over Australia but even the English lost the Lord's Test by a margin of ten wickets. What did the Indians do when they played the English and the Australians last? To chalk out a point, Pakistan's victories were achieved on, more or less, the same grounds on which India had also played earlier and lost there. Pakistan has won at least one Test at each centre in recent times while the Indians have been humbled on the same grounds during the period. Amazingly, all of India's victories were achieved at home under the supervision of her own umpires. If the Indian team is so strong then why is there such a great difference in the results of matches played on her own soil and those abroad?

I know that Lloyd's West Indians and Hughes' Australians said nothing about the umpiring in Pakistan although the same Australian captain had bitterly criticised the Indian umpires on his visit here a couple of years ago.

However, I will advocate the use of neutral umpires for the coming series as I know that the last time India went there one of the umpires had wrongly given Gavaskar not out when he had been caught behind in the second innings of the Karachi Test in Imran's very first over. He was then at zero and then went on to score a century. Can Mr. Damodar show an example of a deci-

sion that may have gone against India when Asif Iqbal's side played Gavaskar's men in 1979-80?

F. I. M. KAMAL,  
Khulna

### Omitted

IN the issue of 27 October Jagdish Patra omitted to mention not only the Railways and the Services out of the teams currently playing the Ranji Trophy but he has also forgotten to include Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. His proposal to put Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the Northern Central Zone is absurd. All these States lie down South and have been already included in the South Zone suggested by Mr. Patra himself.

V. K. DASANI,  
Calcutta

### Defies logic

THE newly-constituted selection committee of the BCCI should be complimented for their efforts in the selection of the Indian cricket team to tour Pakistan. Nevertheless, two of their choices, though not entirely unfair, certainly defy logic.

The inclusion of Mohinder Amarnath, instead of Ashok Malhotra, will definitely weaken India's batting in the one-day internationals. While Malhotra has time and again proved his worth in the one-day game, the same cannot be said of Mohinder. It might be argued that Mohinder was chosen for his all-round abilities. But a cricketer who has taken 20 odd wickets, at 50 runs apiece in 26 Test matches can hardly be considered as anything more than a change bowler.

As far as the Test matches are concerned, with the batting talent available now, it is difficult to imagine Mohinder forcing his way into the final



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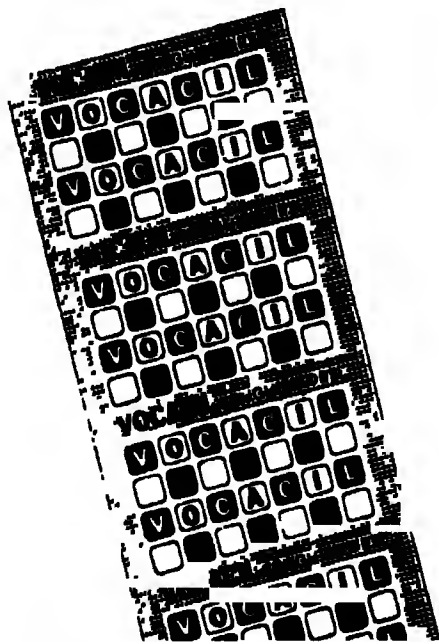
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eleven What is the point in taking on tour a 32-year-old, if he is unlikely to play in the Test team, when a similar opportunity would have been invaluable for the younger batsman

The bowling department, though wearing a healthier and fresher look than in the recent past, appears ill-balanced because of the presence of three left-arm spinners. Admittedly it was difficult to choose between Maninder and Shastri on the basis of recent performances but since Shastri's bowling in the two recent series against England lacked penetration, his place should have gone to a seamer—Valson or Sekhar. As it is, either Shastri or Maninder or both are bound to be grossly under bowled.

DR P PADMAKUMAR,  
Madras

### Fall to understand

I AM referring to the plan of Vijay Amritraj to train the talented boys for the sake of keep-

ing the reputation of the country high. But I fail to understand why 50 boys only should be selected from the four major cities i.e., Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Calcutta. If Bangalore's climate is best suited for tennis then obviously there must be a lot of talented boys that can be included from there too.

I think it would be fair to select the top three from all the major tennis playing centres in India and out of them the best 12 should be trained. But the question is whether Mr K K Birla will try out this plan for the betterment of Indian tennis.

SANJEEV KUMAR  
MEHTA,

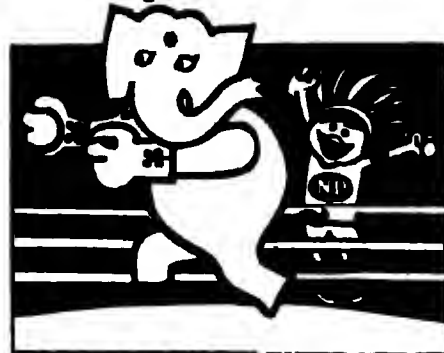
Calcutta


### Final say

AFTER the Pakistan tour, considering the strength of the rival side, a couple of our players may have to return in burkhas!

SHAFIQ AHMED,  
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lot of punch!*



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Continued on page 52

**"EUTHERIA  
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and pains"**

**-Says Kapil Dev**

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**(Kapil Dev)**



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# ALL IN THE GAME

## LIONISED

*Blakeway calls it quits*

**W**HEN one likes a game and plays it one doesn't normally get disenchanted with the game. But the case of Gloucester, England and Lion tight-head prop, Phil Blakeway, surprised the entire rugby fraternity. He announced an abrupt retirement as he was "getting fed up with the bump and grind of the rugby field—It's as simple as that."

Blakeway confessed that he was not in his earlier element as he was tiring physically. Besides, he pointed out, the game demands peak form. "So I've decided to finish while I'm still in one piece. I have decided to call it a day while at the top."

Blakeway suffered a series of injuries and these physical setbacks had often frustrated him. After the Australian tour of 1975 he won eleven caps for his country but was forced out of the game for eighteen months with a broken neck.

After he returned, though he still proved to be England's cornerstone. At 31 this player was considered one of the world's best scrimaging props. But he once again sustained a rib injury which he did not bother to take care of. The obvious result was that it recurred on the tour of South Africa and Blakeway was compelled to fly back home. Net result: the team's overall strength is considerably reduced.

## TEXAN SOUTH AFRICAN

*Curren gets black-balled*

**KEVIN CURREN** is an amicable young man



who always avoids any sort of politics. In doing so he has stayed aloof from his home town. But this, however, does not mean that he is no more a South African although his habits are more akin to that of a Texan.

When Curren's name figured in the \$300,000 WCT event in Amsterdam, some 25 demonstrators bought tickets and then got down to the task of disrupting play by rolling black balls on to the court as part of an anti-apartheid protest. The handful of demonstrators must have enjoyed the stir but the crowd lost its temper and a brawl took place. The net result was black eyes on both sides.

However, things will change for the better for Curren next year. By then he will be granted US citizenship.

## OPEN CHALLENGE

*Star trek at St. Andrew's*

**T**HE year 1982 will see a new secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrew's. But the successor to the present secretary, Mr Keith Mackenzie, has yet to be decided through the advertisement columns. Mr Mackenzie has

earned the reputation of turning the prestigious British Open into one of the biggest sporting extravaganzas in the world. Since he took charge he has masterminded sixteen Opens. The seventeenth will be held next July at the Royal Birkdale. Then again, he had to enhance the attendance. It's unimaginable that from a mere 30,000 the tournament at present attracts 130,000. The gate receipts too increased correspondingly from \$38,000 to \$1 million.

One might well ask how he succeeded. Actually, his trump card was his far-sightedness. "Getting Arnold Palmer to come over from America to play in Britain was an excellent basis on which to build up the Open," said the secretary. And now the championship attracts a galaxy of stars.

## FINE WEATHER

*Paying the price*

**SPANISH** golf ace Severiano Ballesteros has been playing on several



circuits but has experienced wildly fluctuating fortunes.

But the other day even he was surprised when Lancome Trophy Tournament director George O'Crady, slapped a \$50 on him and his partners David Graham of Australia and Jean Garalde of France. Their fault: slow play in the final round of the three-ball play.

For Ballesteros, this was too much, for this was the first fine of his career.

But the director said that the trio finished the game an hour behind schedule. The Spaniard insisted that he did not indulge in slow play and that he was not responsible for the pace of the game. He declined at first to pay the fine, but Mr O'Crady later said that Ballesteros coughed up.

## RING FLING

*Joe's on the prowl again*

**JOE BUGNER** wears a more confident look these days. Things seem to be looking up for him with the thinning of the heavyweight ranks.

Even at the age of 32 Bugner throws his weight around in Europe. To put it in short, the difference between Bugner now and Bugner six years back is that he is more independent.

His last fight in Britain was against Richard Dunn whom he beat. He then trotted around the globe for a stint at the world title which eluded him.

Back again, Bugner's dream of a heavyweight title was kept alive when he punched out Welshman Winston Allen. Now he aims for the European title—that is if he beats Lucien Rodriguez, but he will have to be persuaded to fight.



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He says he will retire at 65, but says as he does not really insure himself by saving, that will be hard to do. He says he will not be able to do that.

There were no fewer  
 than 100 people in  
 the crowd, including  
 David Cameron, the  
 Prime Minister, and  
 Alan Turing, the  
 first computer scientist,  
 who was born in  
 1912. Turing was  
 a pioneer in the  
 field of artificial  
 intelligence and  
 was one of the  
 first to suggest that  
 computers could be  
 used to simulate  
 human thought.

Between the first Kohn Gamer held in New Delhi in 1951 and the sixth to be staged in the capital last November 19 is December 4 this year, is the difference between functional indolence.... Dowd's casual talk and encouraging Delhi hosts at mid winter

"Kerala sportsmen are enthusiastic. Most of them have self-motivation. They are basically stronger than others. Their body structure is similar to that of the Africans. Apart from these features, they get encouragement from organisers and the crowd and that contributes to their success" — Joginder Singh Sami, the chief coach. NIS



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# LIFTOFF

Another historic moment after 31 years. Two noted sports personalities of the country brought the torch to the newly-built Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and the flame was ignited to mark the beginning of the ninth Asian Games.

**MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI** reports on the opening ceremony Photographs by **NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA**

**O**PENING ceremonies like speeches, should be short and to the point. The rehearsal a few days ago convinced the organisers that four hours of culture was too much of a good thing, and this coupled with a restrictive time span taken on the satellite curtailed the entertainment by half. Most of us sighed with relief and settled down to witness what turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable and colourful ceremony. In spite of the threat of an Akali march, Delhi wore a festive and anticipatory look and even the many sceptics marvelled at the speed at which the construction was completed and arrangements finalised. Three months ago there was genuine concern and criticism at the progress, but now cynicism has given way to a sense of pride in the achievement and a fervent hope that the good beginning will continue so and the end will be just as satisfactory.

A packed stadium witnessed the arrival of the Prime Minister and the President exactly on schedule, which pretty well set the precedent for the following events and even if the flame was lit a few minutes late it mattered little to those who are accustomed to waiting hours at points of departure for planes and trains.

Altogether 33 countries, led by Afghanistan and in accordance with the Hindi alphabet filed past, some in reasonable marching order others more nonchalantly waving and smiling at the crowd. The Japanese closely followed by the Philippines and the Indonesians would have won the medals in a dress fashion show, while the Iranians, who had refused to walk directly behind the Iraqis, and also left no doubt as to either their religion, by carrying a banner emblazoned with the Islamic *Kalima*, or their leader by holding a large photograph of Ayatullah Khomeini. Hopefully the Iranians and Iraqis, when they meet each other, on the playing



The eternal flame

field, will remember the Asian Games oath taken on the behalf of all participants by Geeta Zutshi.

India as the host country brought up the rear and it was immediately noticeable that there were a number of gaps in the ranks. The reason may seem strange but it was at least straightforward—the uniforms did not fit. The day before the Games began Raghu Singh Bhal the hammer thrower, who can boast of chest measurements which would delight a burlesque dancer, was given a blazer several sizes too small and another athlete received one, where the sleeves reached the elbow.

Too late to change matters, some athletes preferred not to participate in the march past rather than look foolish, but such has been the impact of the whole event that these irritants, however annoying for the individuals, were quickly dismissed.

If the march past as well as the relevant accompanying rituals went without a hitch Bura Singh and Raja Bhalendra Singh contributing by keeping their speeches short, the folk dancing was even more impressive. And what added to this demonstration of colour and culture was the highly professional coverage by Doordarshan. The mixing and dissolving of shots have rarely been the privilege of the Indian cameramen. But on the opening ceremony's evidence it clearly proved that a high standard can be reached if an effort is made.

It would be difficult to imagine a more irresistible spectacle than the gaily clothed men and women of the different regions of the country exhibiting in perfect symmetry their traditional dances to the complete appreciation of 75,000 spectators. What is more, unlike those Indian films which never end, this two hour display left the spectators asking for more. There are those who will carp over the cost which is impossible to assess, but which must have been over eight figures, but the publicity

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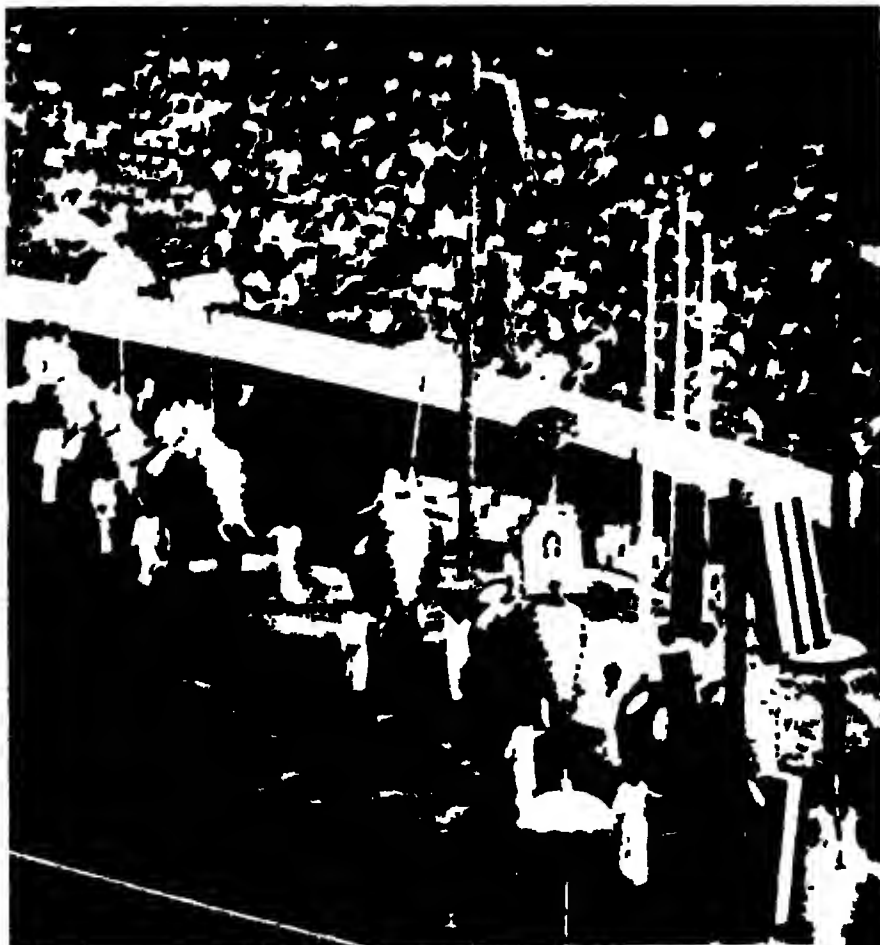
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Let's come closer



*A view of the cultural show*



*The much-publicized Assam elephants*

and exposure over television to many parts of the world showing India's unity in diversity was surely well worth the money spent.

Of course, no event of this nature can possibly be to the perfect satisfaction of all, and there will be those who will question the necessity of bringing two dozen elephants at an enormous expense, to do nothing but stand and sway. Also those who found the security at the gates overzealous and confused, but these are early days and time will help to regularise the minor aspects of organisation.

If there was a serious criticism it was at the choice of individuals who were asked to play a prominent part in the ceremony. Most failed to see why it was Diana Simones and Balbir Singh and not Kamaljit Sandhu and Milkia Singh who accompanied the torch on its final leg to the podium. And all did not understand why a great Olympian like Claudius was not invited, or why it was Jarnail Singh and not Chuni Goswami who helped to carry the flame from the National Stadium to the JN Stadium. But there is no doubt that the opening ceremony has shown that Indians are more than capable of organising a large and complex extravaganza.

Now that we know that this is so, and we also know that the Prime Minister was mainly responsible for the decision to stage the Games in Delhi, maybe Mrs Gandhi will take the final step and bid for the Olympics ten years hence.

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# Asiad mechanism stutters into motion

ARIJIT SEN reports from Delhi Photographs by NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

**E**ARLIER, in the three rehearsals worked out on November 12-14 and 16—the last for correcting minor details—there was a total lack of gaiety.

The mechanism of a function was followed in the latter, but not in the spirit. While the exercises on November 12 and 16 were essentially minor, the full dress rehearsal on November 14 was supposed to generate the kind of enthusiasm one expects of a gathering for an occasion as momentous as the opening of the Ninth Asian Games.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, dedicated the main venue, the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, to the sporting fraternity of the country on that day. It was an appropriate time, because it also marked the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister and the leading light of the Inaugural Asian Games in 1951.

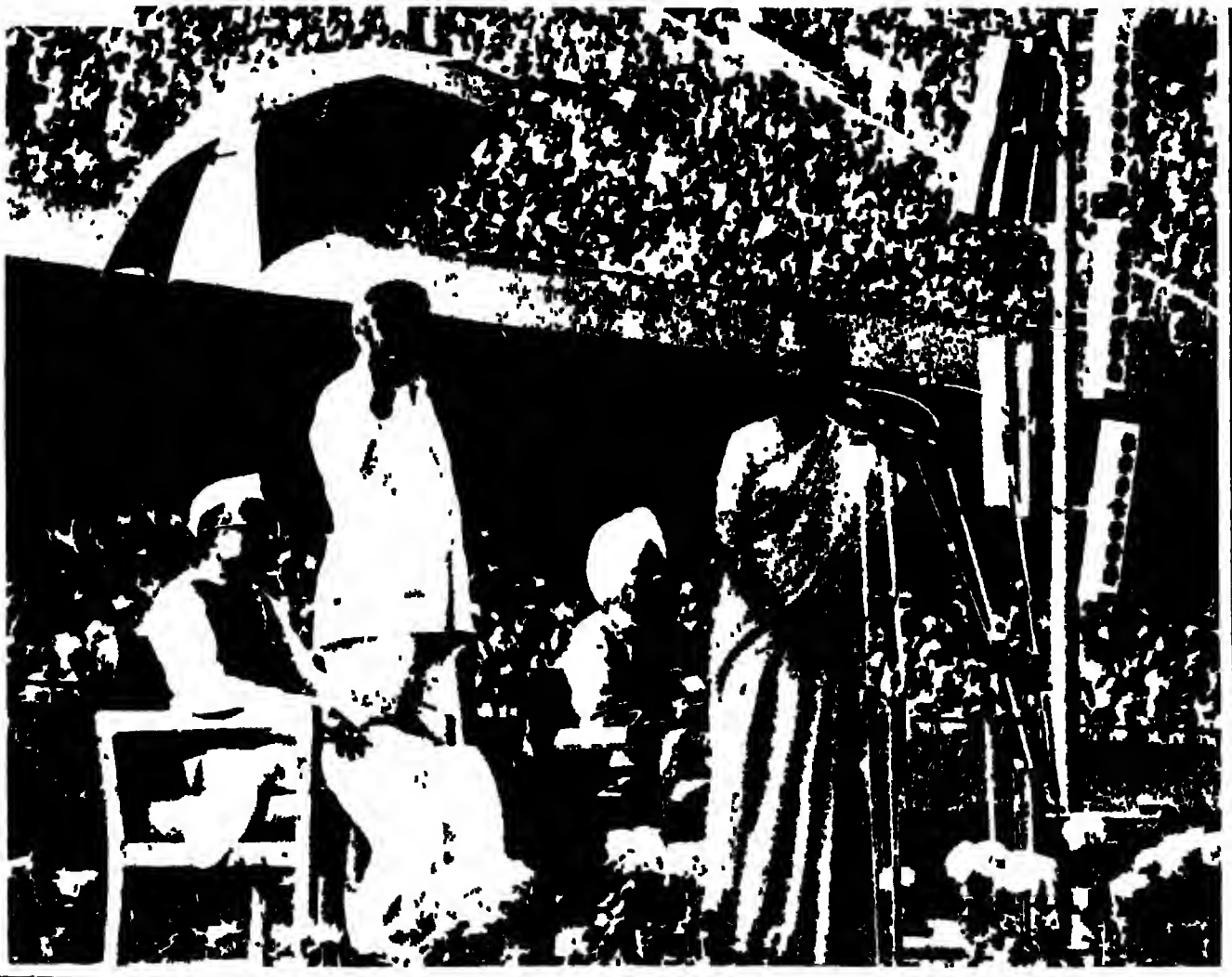
As long as Mrs. Gandhi was in the stadium, everything went off smoothly. She pressed a button to unveil the inscription of the letters 'J N' below the cauldron which will

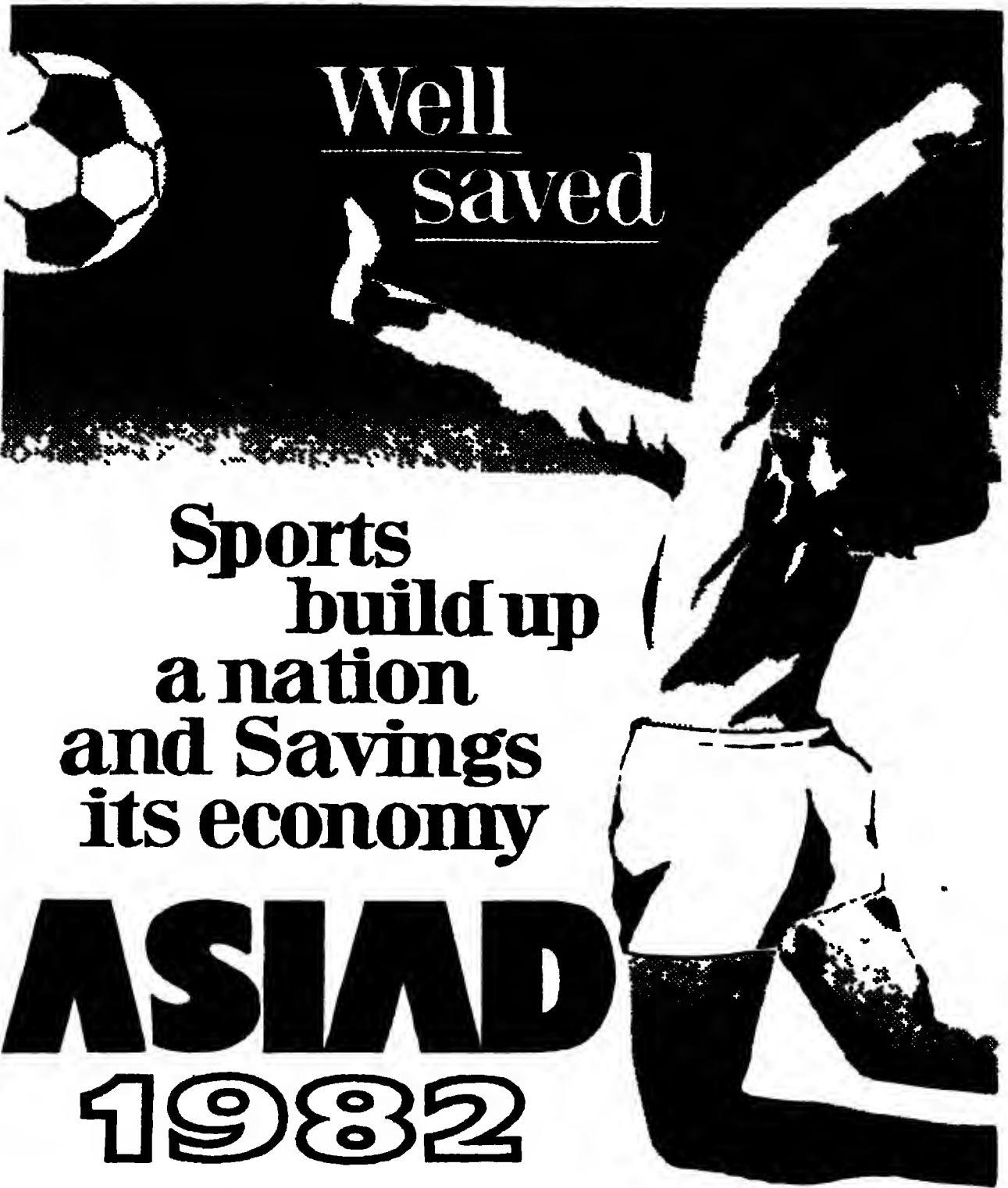
be alight for the duration of the Games.

In her brief but forthright speech, she condemned the attitude of those who wanted to disrupt the Games. But she ended with a Diwali greeting which could not be ignored by the 50,000 spectators present.

But the moment she left, typical Indian indecision took over. School children poured into the playing area, ringing the field to greet the President of India (at the rehearsal, it was General Bhandari standing in) and the participants.

Mrs. Gandhi declaring the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium open





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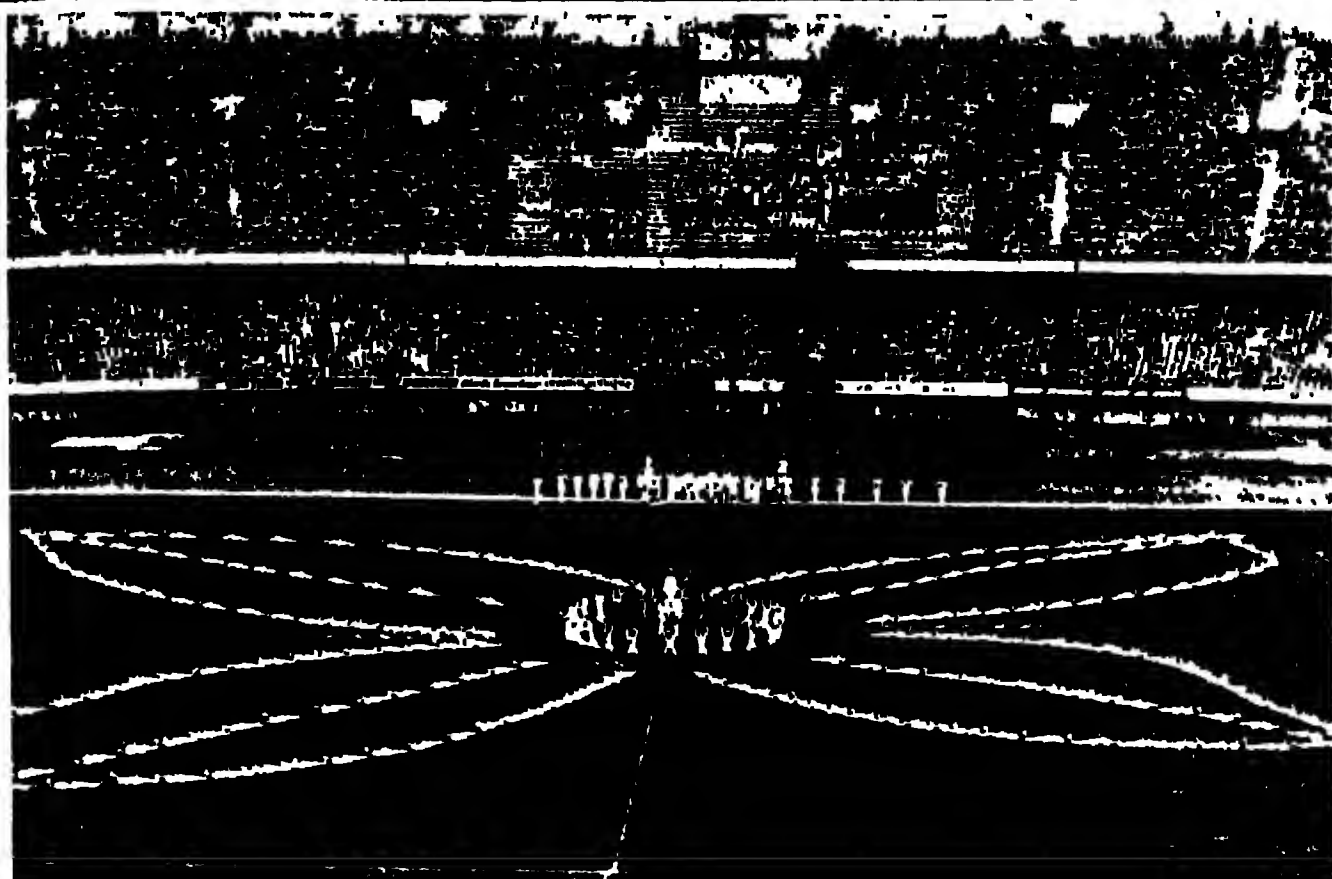
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*Participants in the dress rehearsal making designs*





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Ravi Shankar converses with Vijay Raghavan

But immediately after the inauguration part of the mock opening was gone through, there was an announcement to the effect that there would be a 15-minute recess of sorts before the march-past would commence.

This left the children standing for that duration, with nothing to do. One of them fainted and three others had to be allowed to leave because they were unwell. It transpired later that these children had had nothing to eat from 11 a.m. It was a little after 3 p.m. that these casualties occurred.

The march-past was led by the regular placard-bearers, but standing in for the regular athletes of different countries were members of the dance troupes who were part of the cultural programme. There was nothing solemn about the hip-swinging of the *ghagra*-clad women.

Immediately after the "president" declared the Games open, helicopters showered flower petals onto the ground. The sad part of it was that there weren't many petals—only clumps of flowers hitting the ground. The pigeons and balloons didn't let the organisers down, though. They did soar out and away.

But what hockey players Balbir Singh and Diana Simes did, ought not to have been allowed. Standing in for Milkha Singh and Kamaljit Sandhu, they completed the torch relay by actually lighting the cauldron. If the Special Organising Committee had intended to really go through all the essential items of the opening ceremony, they could well have asked the President of India to come and declare the Games open!

The cultural programme was intended as a deviation from normal practice at international sports meets. Instead of calisthenics, the organisers went in for a "Dances of India" routine. This is certainly not a sportsman's cup of tea, especially so since the Asian Games Village inmates will be invited to a variety of such programmes throughout the duration of the Games.

If it was intended for the stadium spectators, it was a waste, because over ninety per cent of them were

Indians. And if it was meant for Asian television viewers throughout the continent, one is almost certain a majority of them would switch their sets off or tune in to a more familiar channel.

But what struck the sourest note was the voice of the announcer for the cultural programme. In trying to be emphatic, she was merely harsh. And the emphasis on individual words was all wrong, providing a snigger that certainly did not go with the event.

Meanwhile, on the organisational front, there was certainly cause for merry-making for some. The ceremonial kits were provided without a hitch for the players in Delhi, but in distant Jaipur, the rowing fraternity were spending anxious moments waiting for the kits to arrive.

The opening ceremony for this event was to be held at the Jawahar Man Singh Stadium on November 20, but until the sixteenth, there was no sign of the kits. It had already been a tale of woe for the Rowing Federation of India, because the training and competition kits—for which earnest requests had been sent a long time ago—had also not been sent by the IOC.

While competition officials there were also left in the lurch, they could have taken some vicious pleasure in the fact that the distribution of these kits to organising officials in Delhi had led to chaos.

First, there was confusion and then a mad scramble for the blazer, two shirts, trousers, cap and shoes that each official was to get. There were certain set sizes of each and hence the rush. Each official was trying to find a cut that would fit him. For the unfortunate majority, however, there was the additional burden of having to tailor outsize garments in just four days.

More scandalous, however, was the fact that the clothes were all made from very cheap cloth. The blazer cloth, in particular, was flimsy and creased. One does not know what the budget for this particular item was, but it certainly will not help present a decent picture of India and Indians.

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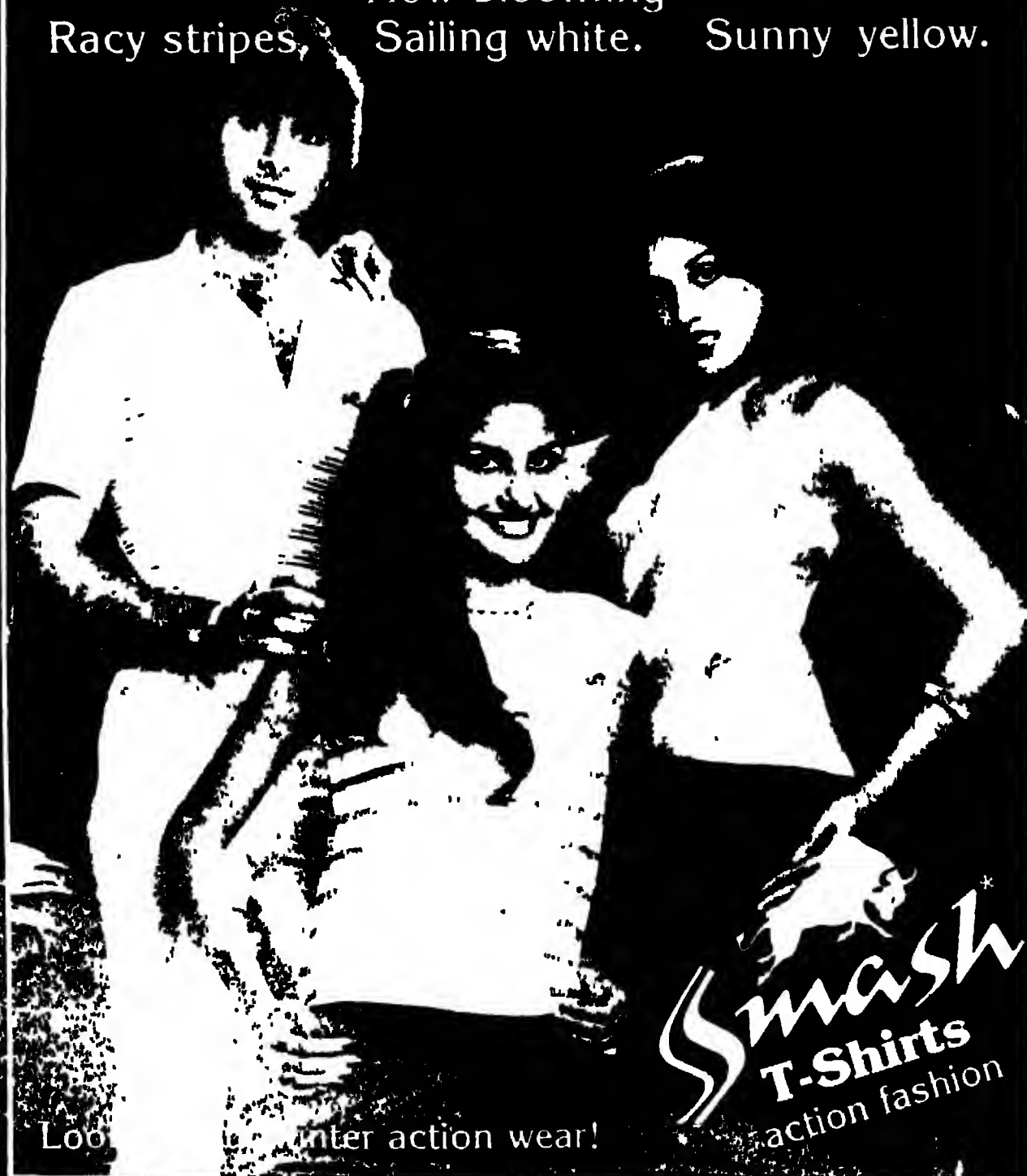
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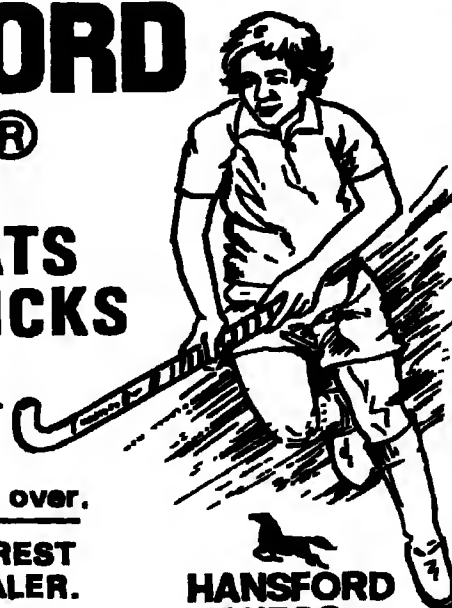
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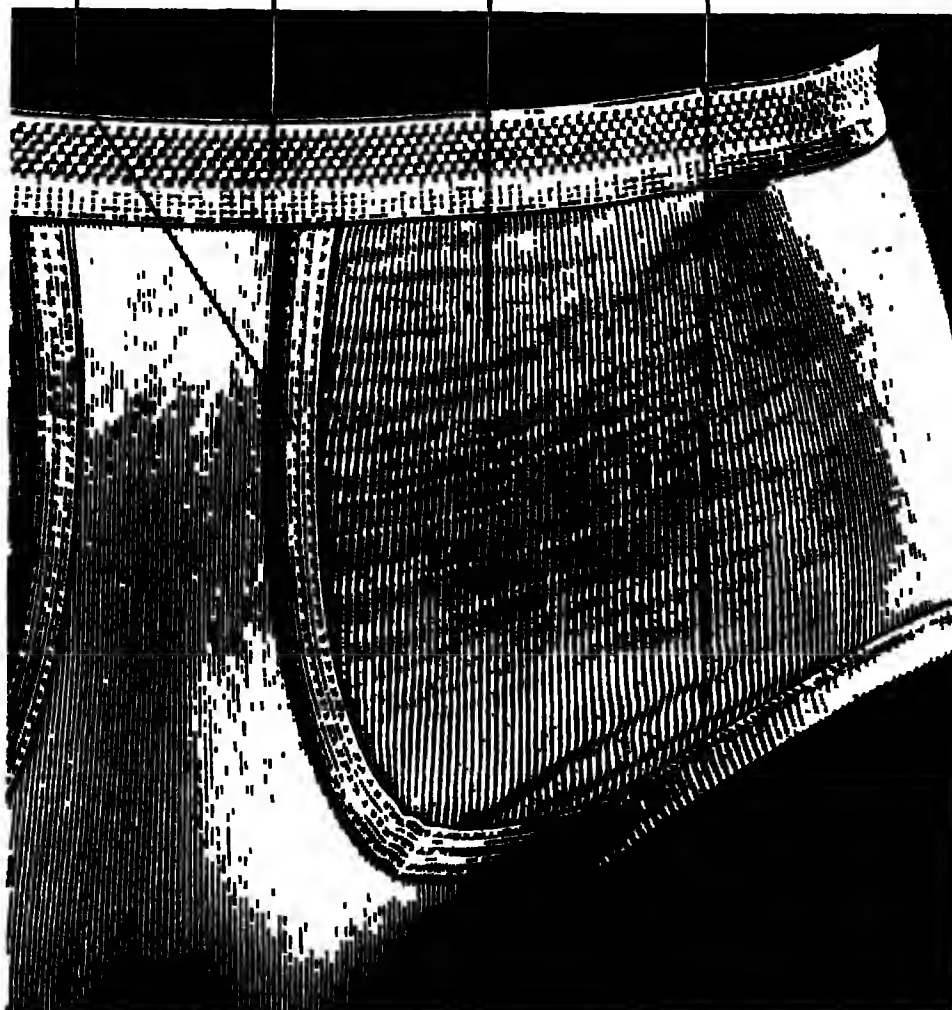
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# Restored to glory at long last

**GEORGE K. GEORGE from New York**

**JIM THORPE** is going to get his Olympic gold medals back after almost 70 years.

A little late, one might say. Indeed this recognition has come so late that the hero of the 1912 Olympics is not even alive to receive them. Instead, his 63-year-old daughter Charlotte Thorpe will receive them on his behalf at a special ceremony during the meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Los Angeles in January 1983.

The man who was elected the sportsman of the half century in an Associated Press poll in 1950, died a destitute in 1953 due to cancer. No story in sports history may be as colourful as his.

The young American Indian shot to international fame at the Stockholm Olympics, winning gold in pentathlon and decathlon. "You sir, are again the greatest in the world," said King Gustav V of Sweden who presented the medal. But within months, the International Olympic body took his medals back and struck his name from the records, because it was found that he had played professional baseball for a monthly allowance of \$60.

His medals were given to the second place winners and their names substituted Thorpe's in the record books. The United States Congress and President Gerald Ford tried in vain to set the records straight. Finally, the International Olympic Committee which met in Lucerne, Switzerland in the second week of October agreed to return the medals and to restore Thorpe's amateur status, in response to the pleas of William E. Simon, the president of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The statement of the IOC said, "The name of Jim Thorpe will be added to the list of athletes who were crowned Olympic champions at the 1912 Games. However, the official report for the Games will not be modified." So Thorpe will hereafter share his Olympic titles with Ferdinand Bie of Norway in pentathlon and Hugo Wieslander of Sweden in decathlon.

Thorpe was the most acclaimed college football player when he went to Stockholm. He returned as the

most famous athlete of the world after securing gold in the toughest items of the meet. He won four of the five pentathlon events and finished third in the remaining one. In decathlon, he finished first in four, third in four others and fourth in two.

He also competed in two other items. He was placed fourth in running high jump with a 6 feet 1 inch jump. He finished seventh in the running long jump with a leap of 22 feet 7 1/4 inches. Both these performances also were stricken from the record later.

An American journalist saw Thorpe's picture in the newspapers and recalled having seen him play semi-professional baseball in Rocky Mount, North Carolina in 1911. He was paid \$2 a day for his expenses. The U.S. Olympic Committee and the Amateur Athletic Union took great pains to have his titles taken away. According to them, Olympic Rule 26 which forbids any athlete from competing in the Games if he had received any payment for participating in any sport.

In its report, the U.S. Olympic Committee said, "The U.S. Olympic Committee and the Amateur Athletic Union feels that Mr. Thorpe is deserving the severest condemnation for concealing the fact that he had professionalised himself by playing baseball." They resolved to do every thing in their power to dethrone Thorpe and to strike his name off the records. They fully succeeded in it, in spite of Thorpe's plea of innocence.

"I was not very wise in the ways of the world and did not realise this was wrong," he stated in his letter of apology to the Amateur Athletic Union. But it insisted on punishing him. The public knew better and it elected him 2-1 as the sportsman of the half century soon after he was humiliated by the Olympic body.

The Olympic set back did not destroy the sportsman in Jim Thorpe. He continued to play baseball and football. For seven seasons he played baseball for the Boston Braves. His pro football career spanned over nine years with the New York Giants. His name is recorded in the halls of fame of three sports, college

football, pro-football and track and field.

In 1951 a movie was made on his life 'Jim Thorpe All American' starring Burt Lancaster picturing him more as an alcoholic than an all time great of the world of sports. Thorpe worked as a consultant of the film as he needed money very badly. The producers of the movie tried to get his medals back hoping that it would have an added attraction at the box office.

He died on his 65th birthday in 1953, without any hope of regaining his lost laurels. He was not bitter, just disappointed and disillusioned.

Efforts continued even after his death for bringing the medals back to the United States. President Gerald Ford's attempts in 1953 were futile. In 1979 and in September this year, the U.S. House of Representatives Congress passed resolutions requesting the IOC to return the medals.

Thorpe's son Richard thinks that the efforts on behalf of his father were foiled due to jealousy. "It's a damn shame it took that long, but that's the way things work some times, I think it would have been restored long ago. But Avery Brundage was the chairman of the International Olympic Committee for many years. He competed in 1912 and got real bad by my dad. And, of course, in 1912 there was a little bit of prejudice against the Indians," he said.

Brundage was 14th in decathlon and fifth in pentathlon in 1912. He was very strongly opposed to restoring Thorpe's medals. It is a great irony that Thorpe's honour is going to be restored in Los Angeles. In 1932, he was denied a seat during the opening ceremony of the first Los Angeles Olympics and the vice president of the United States had to intercede to get him a couple of seats.

But the tragic saga of Jim Thorpe may not be over yet. The fact that the Olympic records will not be changed has annoyed many people. The controversy regarding that may continue for ever.

Jim Thorpe also needs a final resting place for his mortal remains. His home State of Oklahoma refused to build him a suitable memorial and his third wife Patricia moved his remains twice before burying them in a town named after him. In 1954, the north eastern Pennsylvania towns of Macuh Chunk and East Mauch invited her to bring his remains. The town merged and changed their names to Jim Thorpe and built him a suitable memorial.

Now his daughter Charlotte, who has spent her entire life fighting for her father's honour, wants to bring his remains back his home State Oklahoma. "My next push is to get dad's remains back to Oklahoma so that his soul can rest in peace," she said.

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# RECORDS

## PAST & PRESENT

IX ASIAN GAMES 1977 DELHI

WHEN we come to the 110 metres hurdles we find that the disparity between the world record and the Indian one becomes even more pronounced. Renaldo Nehemiah holds the world one with a time of 12.93 seconds, while G. S. Randhawa lifts the Indian best with 14 seconds, set way back in 1964. The Asian Games record is held by Tsui Lan of China who set it at Tehran while the Asian mark was created by Tsui Lan himself with a timing of 13.5 seconds established, interestingly, in 1965.

In the 400 m hurdles Edwin Moses, holder of the world record, is way ahead with figures of 47.13 seconds with Takashi Nagan (49.59s) holding the Asian record and Hassan Khadim of Iraq (50.31s) clinching the Asian Games best. K. Balasubramanian in comparison presents a poor 51.6 for the Indian best in that event.

In the 20 kilometre walk Indians figure in the best timing achieved in the Asian zone as well as the Asian Games. Hakam Singh holds the best time in the latter division with 1 hour 31 minutes and 54.4 seconds while, Bachan Singh recorded 1 hour 27 minutes 57.6 seconds for his Asian record, the same timing applicable for his Indian record. The world record, it would not be out of place to mention, is held by D. Colin of Mexico with a time of 1 hour 20 minutes 58.6 seconds.

In the 50 km walk Indian success is slightly restricted. Though Bakhtawar Singh holds the Asian Games record achieved in 5 h 44 m 7.4 the world best of 3 h 41 m 39s by Raul Gonzales makes it look poor. Even the Asian record is

more respectable, achieved by Kazuo Saito of Japan in 4 h 17 m 58.6s in 1976. The Indian record is also praiseworthy, held by Kishen Singh in 4 h 9 m 47 s in 1970.

The high jump world record is 2.36 metres held by Gerd Wegsig of GDR, the Asian record held by Zhu Jian Hua 06 metres less. The Asian Games record is held by Tevmour Ghassai of Iran established at Tehran in 1975 going up to 2.21 metres. The Indian best by Blum Singh is way behind at 2.09 m.



In the pole vault section 4.45 m established by S. S. Tomai this year looks rather shoddy. Tamomi Takahashi of Japan holds the Asian Games best with a height of 5.10 m and holds the Asian best too, now with a record of 5.45 m. V. Poliakov of the USSR, who holds the world record, is way

ahead with a height of 5.81 metres achieved.

Some respectability is, however, achieved in the long jump with T. C. Yohannan jumping 8.07 m for the Indian as well as the Asian Games best, recorded at the Tehran Asian in 1974. For the Asian best Liu Yu Huang is ahead at 8.11 m while Bob Beamon, holder of the world best, looks unassailable at an incredible 8.90 m.

In the triple jump the gulf between the Asian and the world record is once again evident. Carlos de Oliveira of Brazil holds the world record with a distance of 17.89 metres while the Asian record holder Zhou Zhen Xian has a distance of 17.34 metres to himself. The Asian Games best is still behind at 16.56 metres to the credit of Masami Nakanishi of Japan. The Indian record is, however, better placed, coming at 16.79 m to the name of Mohinder Singh Gill established in 1971.

For the discus throw world record Wolfgang Schmidt of the GDR managed 71.16 m, Djafal Keshmiri of Iran going to 61.06 for the Asian best and Shigenobu Murofushi of Japan throwing 68.26 for the Asian Games best. Praveen Kumar, holder of the Indian best, threw 65.76 m in 1969.

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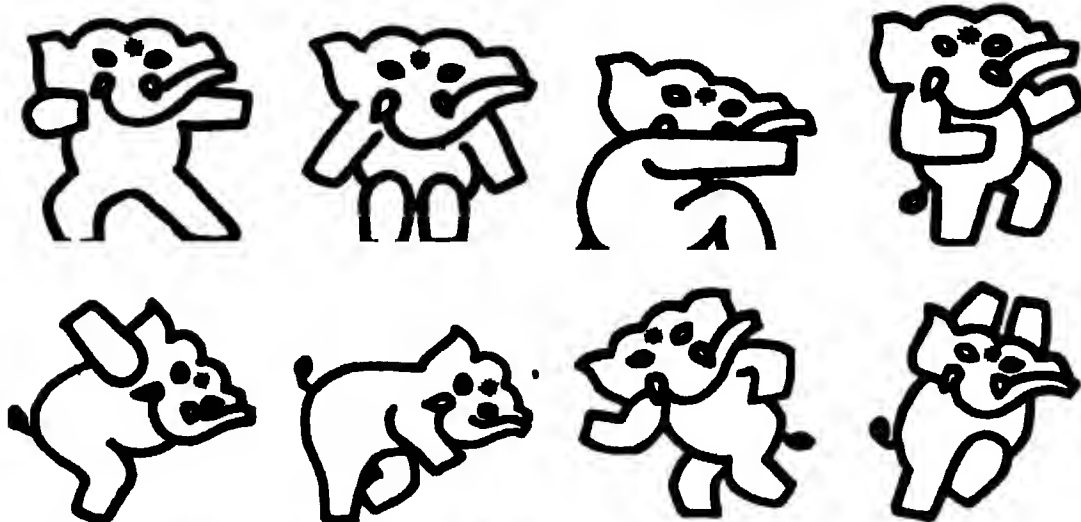
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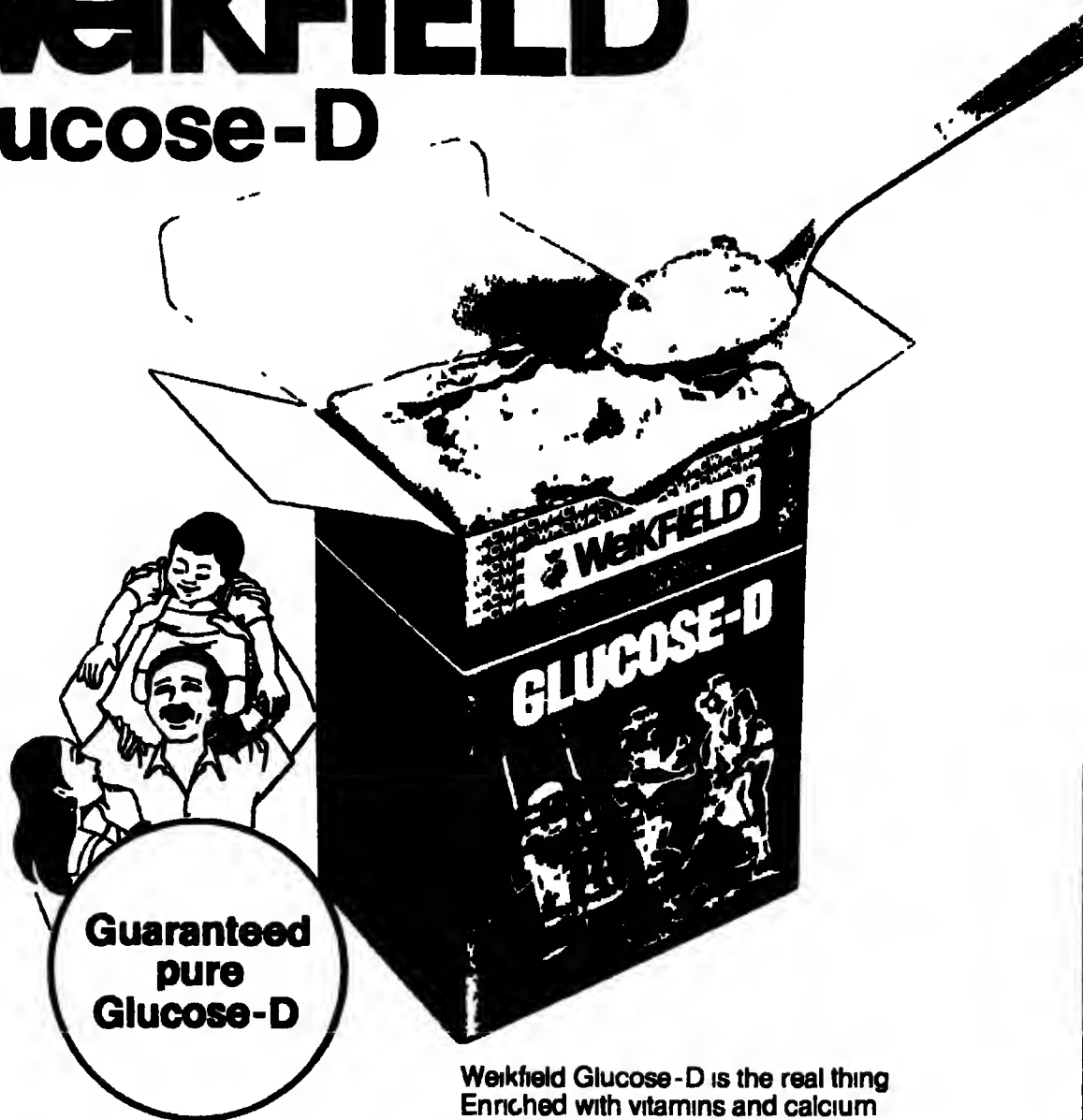
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IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI-1982

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# CYCLING

## Preeda: The golden cyclist

It is indeed a sad commentary on Indian cycling that, in spite of the fact that we introduced the cycling events in the 1951 Asian Games at Delhi we did not distinguish ourselves. We only won a silver through R. Noble in the 1000m time trial but that was out of four items on the card. That year saw Japan hold sway. Takeo Sato took golds in the 1000 m individual sprint and the 1000 m time trial as well as the 180 km individual road race bronze. His compatriots Kihei Tomiko and Yuzi Tachiri beat him at the finish of the latter event.

India has not found anyone to emulate Noble, but one cannot blame the home cyclists alone. This sport has been neglected and the need for proper equipment and a modern velodrome—which we now have at Rajghat—were somehow overlooked. The couple of velodromes that existed were useful but they fell way below international specifications. The tracks too were substandard and this was a great disadvantage to India aspirants. Besides, the really good racing bikes ranged from Rs 5,000 to a fabulous Rs 15,000. So, with such bottlenecks, the race for Asian medals was lost before it began. Of late, however, things have started to improve. With things beginning to look up, our cyclists have received a welcome boost. Scientific training methods and domestic competitions have also been in short supply.

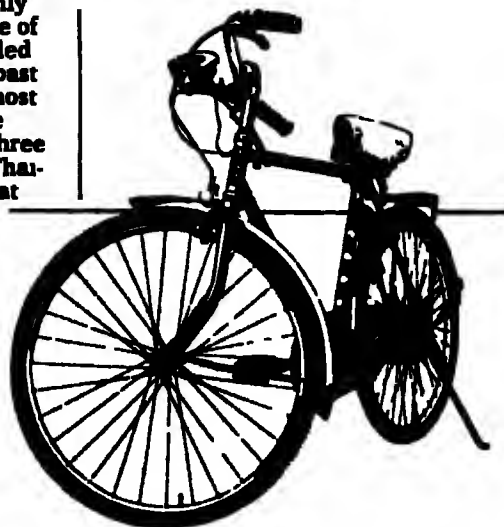
In the Asian cycling, there are 16 events altogether. It seems that the



Takeo Sato in the 1000m individual sprint in 1951

selection of the events depends solely on the hosts. For instance, the 2000 m tandem was held only once at the Tokyo Games. Some of the other events have been billed twice. It is interesting to scan past records and see who won the most medals. Takeo Sato earned the pride of place for Japan with three medals. But another star was Thailand's Preeda Chullamondhol at

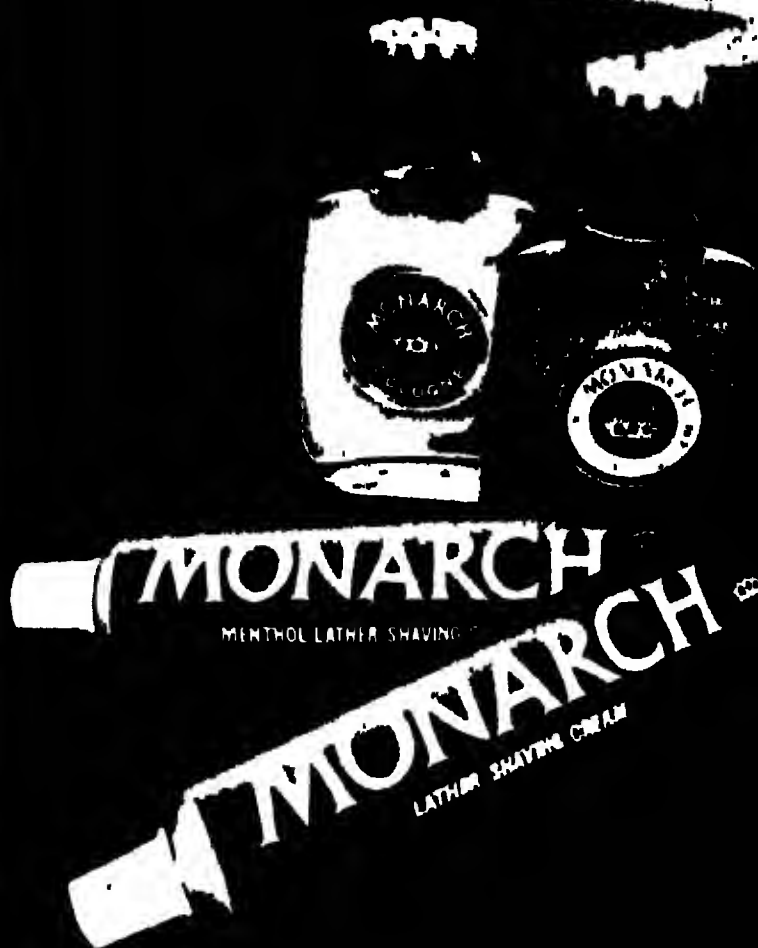
Bangkok in 1966. First he wrested the 800 m massed start gold from Japan's Kozo Nishimura, clocking 1 min 05.27 sec which stands as the best in the event. Preeda's second gold came in the 1000 m time trial, but the best time is held by Japan's Shunpei Okajima, who figured 1 min. 11.31 sec. in 1974. (At Teheran, Okajima went on to strike another gold in the time trial, with another Asian mark). The Thai's third gold at the same Games came in the 4,000 m individual pursuit and finally the fourth in the 4,800 m massed start. He also returned the best timing of 7 min 10.31 sec. This is the best-ever achievement by an individual cyclist at the Asian. Also at the Bangkok Games, Preeda's countryman Channarong Soponpong won a silver in the 10,000 m massed start in a close fight with Japan's Masanori Tsuji. But the Thai was determined to do better and at the next Games at the same venue he clinched the gold with a far better timing of 17 min. 13.90 sec. The year 1970 also saw Korean Jhung Hyun Kwan snatch two silvers and a bronze, while Filipino Claudio Romeo took a silver and a bronze each. That year the Thai cyclists had a rich harvest.



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## *Soccer*

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between September 1956  
and October 1974—a  
record! (This total  
reached 1,281 in 1,363  
games by his retirement  
in 1977)*



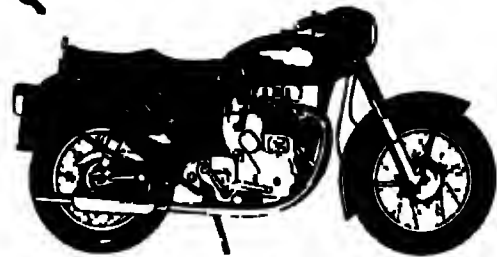
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*Mark Spitz (USA)  
7 gold medals at the  
1972 Munich Olympics*



# ENFIELD BULLET





# FACE TO FACE AT THE ASIAD

**Name:** Zafar Iqbal  
**Nationality:** Indian  
**Discipline:** Hockey

**E**VER since Europe—in the form of West Germany and Holland—emerged as leading contenders for the world field hockey crown, there has been a raging controversy over the distinctly different style of play in that continent from that popularised through the decades in Asia. Experts have held sharply divergent views on the efficacy of one style as compared with the other.

As the captain of the Indian team for the Asian Games hockey competition, Zafar Iqbal was posing the question a few days before the tournament got under way.

"The Europeans play hockey as if it were football. The formation, the passing, and the build-up to an attack are all taken from the pages of a football manual."

"The Indian style of hockey is any day better," he added. He was referring to the conventional 2-3-5 formation and the judicious mixture of individual dribbling and team coordination.

Zafar felt that, as always in past Asian meets, Pakistan were the principal rivals to India's aspirations for gold.

"They have a very experienced and well-balanced team. They have the added advantage of experience on astro turf over many years now. But one cannot altogether write off Malaysia and Japan."

Incidentally, Malaysia have several times pushed India to the brink of defeat. Even in Bangkok four years ago, they scored first against India. Surprisingly, they did not do very well in the last World Cup, held in Bombay almost a year ago.

Zafar did not mention China perhaps because he has seen little of this fledgling hockey nation. But, as in other spheres of sport, China have made rapid strides and are expected to give a good showing.

Recalling that Zafar felt that the Indian players were slowly getting used to this super-smooth surface. "The ball moves extremely fast and it takes a lot of practice to pick, stop and start."

Initially, while playing on this synthetic pitch, several players developed knee and ankle sprains. Very recently, Ramesh Singh and I were injured while practising on this turf. But now, the overall situation is much better. We feel much more at home on this surface and, naturally, more confident about our performance.

He talked in glowing terms about the National Stadium, where the men's competition will be held. "In 1951, this was the main stadium for the First Asian Games. Today, it is still a grand arena and certainly one of the best hockey stadiums in the world. The setting, too, is superb," he said.

But a stadium, however grand, will not suffice, he felt. Nor, just a synthetic surface. "We need to spread the game throughout the

country. As a start, hockey should be made a compulsory sport in schools. It is only through this that we can hope to get a steady stream of youngsters who can graduate into national players."

"We have had a long training schedule. It lasted a full three months. Now, with just a few days to go before we meet our first opponents, Hong Kong, we are playing practice matches to sharpen our reflexes, correct our defects as we go along and also to keep in trim."

"We played two to three matches daily, against the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Army Signal Corps (ASC). We are now also playing a few friendly matches against other Asian teams but these matches are not to be taken seriously, because these are held just so that we are in match practice."

"Ours is a very well-balanced team. It has certainly been selected on the basis of competence," he said. "We have a lot in our favour, since we are playing on home ground. We have a very good chance of taking the hockey gold. But then, a great deal depends on luck. We will need it on our side."

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# Will a country ever score 24 goals in a hockey match again?



It happened at the 1932 Olympics, when India defeated the United States by 24 goals to 1. India was then at the peak of its dominant period, scoring 102 goals and conceding only 3 over the 1928, 1932 and 1936 Olympics.

Thereafter, hockey's popularity and its standards have risen substantially in Europe, other Asian countries and even in Africa and the Americas. The introduction of artificial turf—more suited to the fast, robust European game—has further evened out the edge that the Indian short-pass game had over the others. But the struggle for sporting supremacy goes on.

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# SOCCER

IX ASIAN GAMES 1982 DELHI

## What else can we ask for?

**A**SIAD '82 is round the corner and our football team has been in practice for the last two years to combat the situation. In the meantime all possible measures have been taken to improve the level of efficiency of our team, although some confusion persisted even to the last minute which was in the vital area of "player selection." Shyamal Banerjee on the plea of being injured, was withdrawn at the last minute and by the dictates of no other person than the President of AIFF himself Aslam Khan came in from nowhere. This last minute change might create some 'misgivings' amongst the members of the team, which does not augur well for the benefit of the team as such. Notwithstanding this uncertainty in the minds of the Selection Committee, the team members should by now be in close harmony and possess friendly relations among themselves in order to enable them to rise to the occasion. The Indian team has not been on display recently except for their two appearances against a visiting Russian club from that account.

CHUNI GOSWAMI



the performance of the team in the Asiad cannot be fully anticipated. I am sure that they must have further developed their speed, stamina and fighting ability. Skill is a component which can't be improved overnight and particularly by those players who have reached their limitations. However, in the meantime, it is heartening to note that India has been placed in the comparatively easy C Group which consists of China, Malaysia and Bangladesh (apart from India) Bangladesh, with a very recent record in international matches, can be considered out of the reckoning. If China can be taken for granted as one of the two qualifying teams for a quarter final berth, then the real fight for another berth would be between

Malaysia and India. Now, on the basis of recent achievements, by these two countries in international matches, there is very little to choose between the two. I don't think India has, of late, played against Malaysia either in the Merdeka or any other tournament held in Asia. Taking that into view, India has a definite edge over Malaysia for the very simple reason that India will have the added advantage of the home ground and crowd. The cool weather in Delhi now will help the players not to run out of stamina, although this is also applicable to the players of other countries. In other words, the Indians in my opinion, are more skilful players who possess quick turning and negotiating ability. They also by na-

ture have a tendency to hold the ball for long. Because of this, Indian players need to have more stamina than their counterparts. This is where we would have advantage playing during a Delhi winter.

All said and done, the Indian football team should be happy to be placed in a group like this but on no account should they be complacent and feel that they are already in the quarter final.

As ambitious as it sounds, there is a possibility of entering the semi final if (and it is a big "if") having passed the quarter final, we come up against a team which is neither from the Middle East or one of Korea. However, it is stretching one's imagination too far.

There is more news, all of which should also enthuse the Indian football team. All the members of the Technical Committee have been allowed to stay in the Village along with the players. This would certainly provide an opportunity for the players to have their own 'men' in close quarters. This would give them extra satisfaction and confidence. Anyway only time will tell.



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Thums Up facts and figures series . . . 2

# Follow the Asiad with Thums Up...

In the first Asian Games, Iran won all seven gold medals in weight lifting. **M. Namajou** broke the existing world record in the bantamweight section with a lift of **700 lbs.**

Japan did not win a single medal for swimming in the first Asiad. But in the second Asiad and ever since, Japan swept almost all titles. Now, the maximum number of Asian Games records for swimming are held by Japan.

India won the football gold medal in the first Games beating Iran in the finals. India won the title again in 1962 beating Korea.

1st Asian Games

Asian Games Record

1982 Asiad

<b>SHOT PUT</b>	Men	M. Lal (India) 13.78 m	D. Keshmiri (Iran) 18.04 m
	Women	T. Yoshino (Japan) 11.90 m	S. Li Chuan (China) 17.70 m
<b>DISCUS THROW</b>	Men	Makhan Singh (India) 39.92 m	D. Keshmiri (Iran) 56.82 m
	Women	T. Yoshino (Japan) 42.10 m	L. Helao Hui (China) 55.92 m
<b>JAVELIN THROW</b>	Men	H. Nagayasu (Japan) 63.97 m	M. Mao Shen (China) 79.24 m
	Women	T. Yoshino (Japan) 36.22 m	Y. Jui Ying (China) 57.22 m

Watch out for Thums Up facts and figures series . . . 3

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In the 1972 Olympics, Lyudmila Bragina of the Soviet Union won the women's 1500 metres in a time faster than six past men's champions.

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# HOCKEY

## Psychological advantage is with India

**T**HE Indian hockey team has a definite psychological advantage over arch rivals Pakistan at New Delhi this winter.

The reason is fairly straightforward. Let's cast our minds back to a certain tournament called the Champions Cup which was held in Amsterdam in the middle of this year. There were a number of strange things that took place there.

First and foremost, if you remember correctly, a certain team called Pakistan conceded no less than twelve goals in two matches. First, against India, they went down by four goals to five and then against eventual champions Holland, they conceded seven goals while scoring only two. A dozen goals in two matches is no light matter and when you consider that Pakistan had only recently lifted the fifth World Cup, you realise the importance of those two scores.

Now let us come to a very important encounter—the India-Pakistan match. The latter led by three goals to nil but though there must have been several supporters who rubbed their hands with glee and prepared to write scathing obituaries on the Indian team, the game was far from over.

India fought back. There was a hat-trick by Rajinder Gurmail Singh and Surinder Singh Sodhi added their contributions and India notched up a most incredible win.

### GURBUX SINGH

Now, if all that does not add up to give us a psychological advantage, then nothing does. More important, though, this also goes to prove something else. A lead of one or two goals at half time is not enough to see a side through. Not at this level of competition, where the game gets faster all the time.

In our days, we would ask our forwards to give us a lead of a couple of goals and then the match was more or less sewn up. All that was required of us was to bottle up the opposing forwards and we could be more or less sure that the outcome of the match was sealed. But this no longer holds true. A lead, whether it is one goal or two, means very little.

Not so many years ago, the coaches of the national teams would always exhort their players to score the first goal of a match. This, as any player who is worth his salt will tell you, means that the pressure is on the opposition. If they want to draw level, they have to score one goal and if they want to win, they have to score at least two.

The point that I am trying to make is this. No side can afford to sit back and hope for the best.

Pakistan's confidence has been shaken by what happened at Amsterdam, there can be no doubt about that. There has been a cer-

tain myth built up around the Pakistani sides of recent years, a sort of aura of invincibility. But India has proved—and proved convincingly—that they can be beaten even when they are out in front with a two goal lead.

We were the World Champions from 1928 onwards till Pakistan dethroned us in the inaugural hockey tournament at the Asian Games. From then onwards, geography, history and politics have combined to ensure that India and Pakistan have always remained fierce rivals on the hockey field.

For years, we were unmatched. We were supreme on the hockey field. And suddenly our neighbours proved that they could do better than us. Our supremacy was challenged and the world hockey crown passed like a rubber ball between the two nations. An India-Pakistan hockey match evoked the same interest as an Ashes series.

Then, outside nations proved that they were as good, if not better than us. A two-pronged battle for the world crown gradually became a triangular one, then, as other nations grew in confidence, the battle intensified and there were more contenders for the laurel wreath.



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## **"We are helping veteran players"**

The Chief Martial Law Administrator of Bangladesh, Lt.Gen. H.M.Ershad, who doubles as the President of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, talks to HIMANSU CHATTERJEE



*Lt Gen Ershad shows his skill at golf*

**QUESTION:** What is the state of sport in Bangladesh at the moment?

**H.M.ERSHAD:** At present we are still learning. It would perhaps be correct to say that we are still in the apprenticeship stage. We would like to ensure that there is a system for sport in this country. Each of our countrymen must be made to feel part and parcel of this system.

To start with, we have arranged different competitions at various levels. We plan to establish stadia in each thana and district of this country and we are moving steadily towards this goal.

**QUESTION:** Do you plan to establish a sports coaching institute in this country?

**H.M.ERSHAD:** Yes. We are preparing a coaching institute in Savar, which is only 16 miles from Dacca, where we will instruct boys and girls in the six to twelve age group. They will be given educational facilities as well as sports coaching. It will be a residential campus, the entire cost of which will be borne by the government.

**QUESTION:** When do you think this centre will be opened?

**H.M.ERSHAD:** Construction work is already in progress and it is expected that it will be declared open soon. To start with, one hundred students will be given the facilities there.

**QUESTION:** What will this institute be called?

**H.M.ERSHAD:** It will be called the Bangladesh Institute of Sport.

**QUESTION:** Do you have any programmes to turn out qualified coaches in your country?

**H.M.ERSHAD:** Yes. Veteran Bangladeshi sportsmen will train our potential coaches. Later, these recognised coaches will go out into the districts to groom new people to take over their posts in turn. This will ensure good, thorough training at grassroots level. The vital work will be done in a very short time.

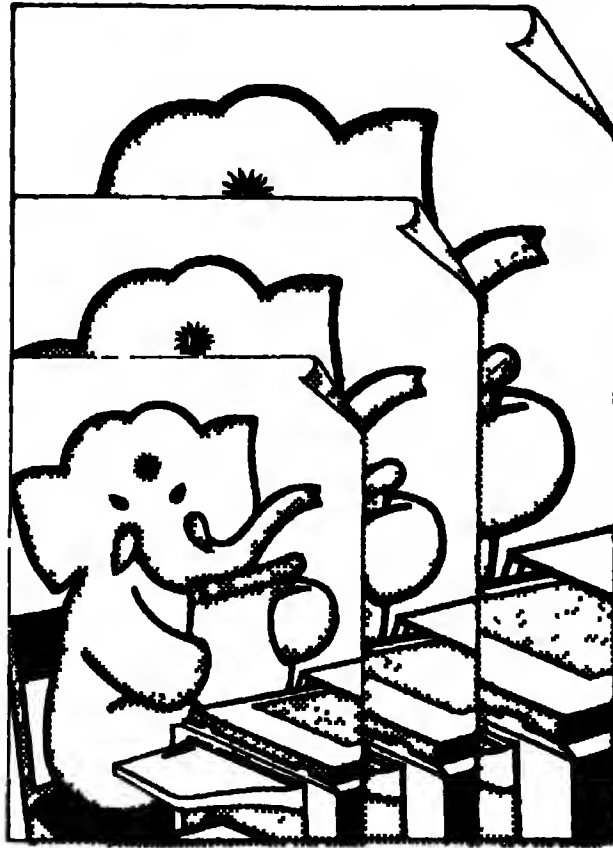
**QUESTION:** What about plans to help retired players?

**H.M.ERSHAD:** We are in the process of implementing this programme. We are helping veteran players who have financial problems, providing up to 300 takas a month. Sometimes, we give them a lump sum to help them out. Our resources are limited but we are trying our best.

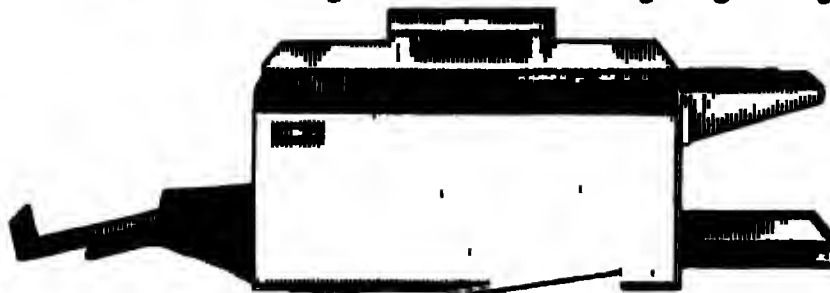
**QUESTION:** Do you plan an exchange of sports activities with neighbouring countries?

**H.M.ERSHAD:** Certainly. We believe in this sort of exchange because it not only helps build up international relations, it also helps with regard to exposure of our sportsmen. In addition, we shall be organising different sports activities in our country, complete with international flavour.

# What's the score at the Asiad?



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## ROVERS CUP

# Salgaocar the giant-killers

**A**T the quarter final stage there was one team that refused to go by their reputation Salgaocar of Goa beat East Bengal one of the big three, by a convincing margin of 5-2 in the double leg quarter final.

In the first leg Salgaocar were harassed considerably by the East Bengal forwards. A Chinnoy Char tejee free kick enabled captain Amalraj to pass the ball past the Salgaocar custodian Chandrakant to give the Calcutta outfit their first success. Amalraj and Swapan Routh controlled the game in the mid field and ensured that East Bengal were not unduly troubled. Both of them were feeding the forwards with fine passes and distribution.

The Salgaocar defence was under constant pressure and soon yielded another goal when a mix up between Norbert and Rebello resulted in Norbert offering it on a platter to Mihu

Bose who obliged by volleving the ball into the top right hand corner of the net. As for the East Bengal defence it was never tested.

Salgaocar's substitution of Lawrence by Mauricio did a world of good to the fortunes of the Goans and they ended the first leg on level terms with the Calcutta team. East Bengal's goalkeeper Tapas Chakraborty, barely managed to get his hands to a header from Mattano off a free kick by Oscar. Then a minute from the final whistle linkman Jose positioned himself to collect a flag kick and unleashed a powerful left footer which entered the East Bengal goal.

Inspired by their performance, Salgaocar dominated the second leg and slammed three goals in the first half. Mauricio Digambari and Jose netted for Salgaocar. On the few occasions East Bengal were able to penetrate the gaps they found the

Salgaocar goalkeeper Chandrakant in the way.

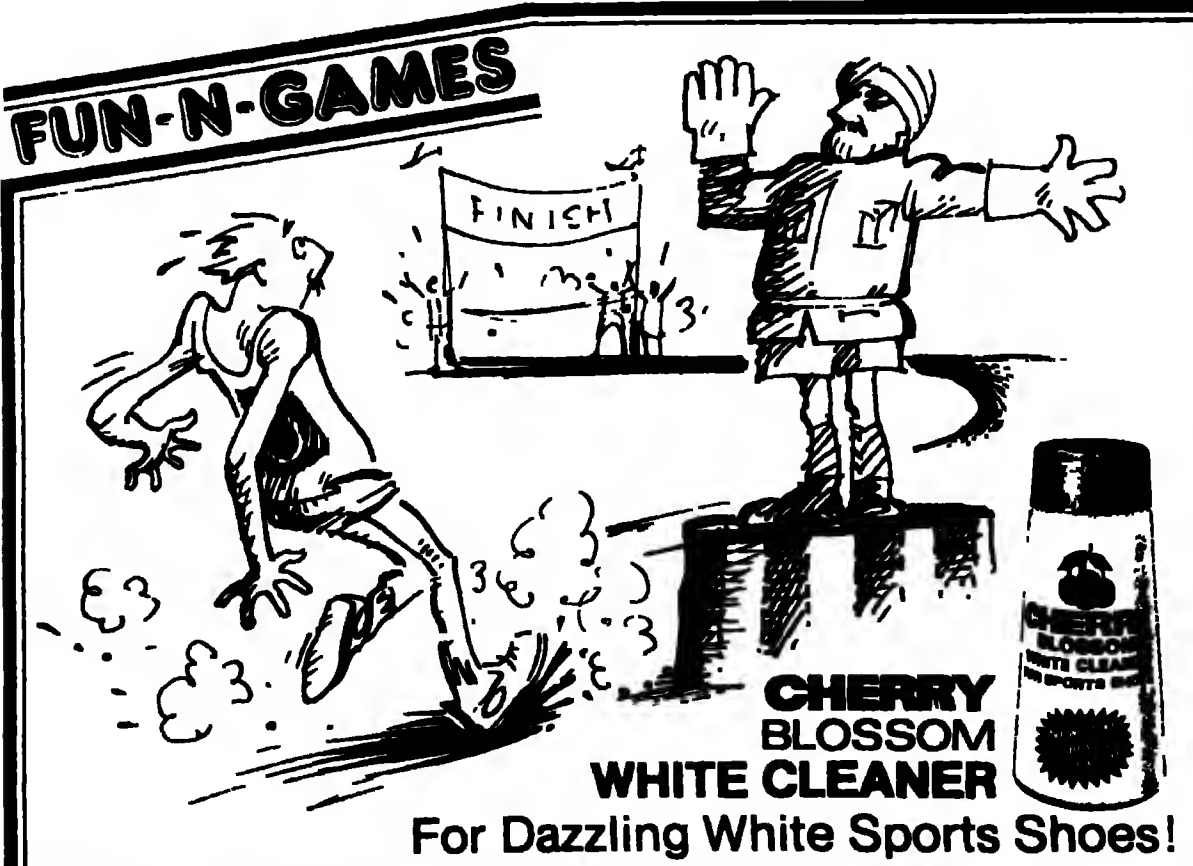
All the other three fancied teams, Mohun Bagan, Mohammedan Sporting and Salahuddin (Iraq) reached the last four stage. Salahuddin, the first foreign team to participate in the Rovers Cup in 25 years had three internationals in its ranks, and unlike the Indian teams played the 4-4-2 format.

When Salahuddin took on JCT (Phagwara), they never really exerted themselves. In the first leg the Iraqis took a two nil lead and were quite content to maintain it in the second leg. JCT played more individually than as a team and their policy was to protect their goal rather than look for goals. On the other hand, the Iraqis played at half pace in an effort to adjust to local conditions.

Mohammedan Sporting cruised to a comfortable 3-1 win over local team Orkay Sporting could easily have increased that lead if they wished and they played with supreme confidence.

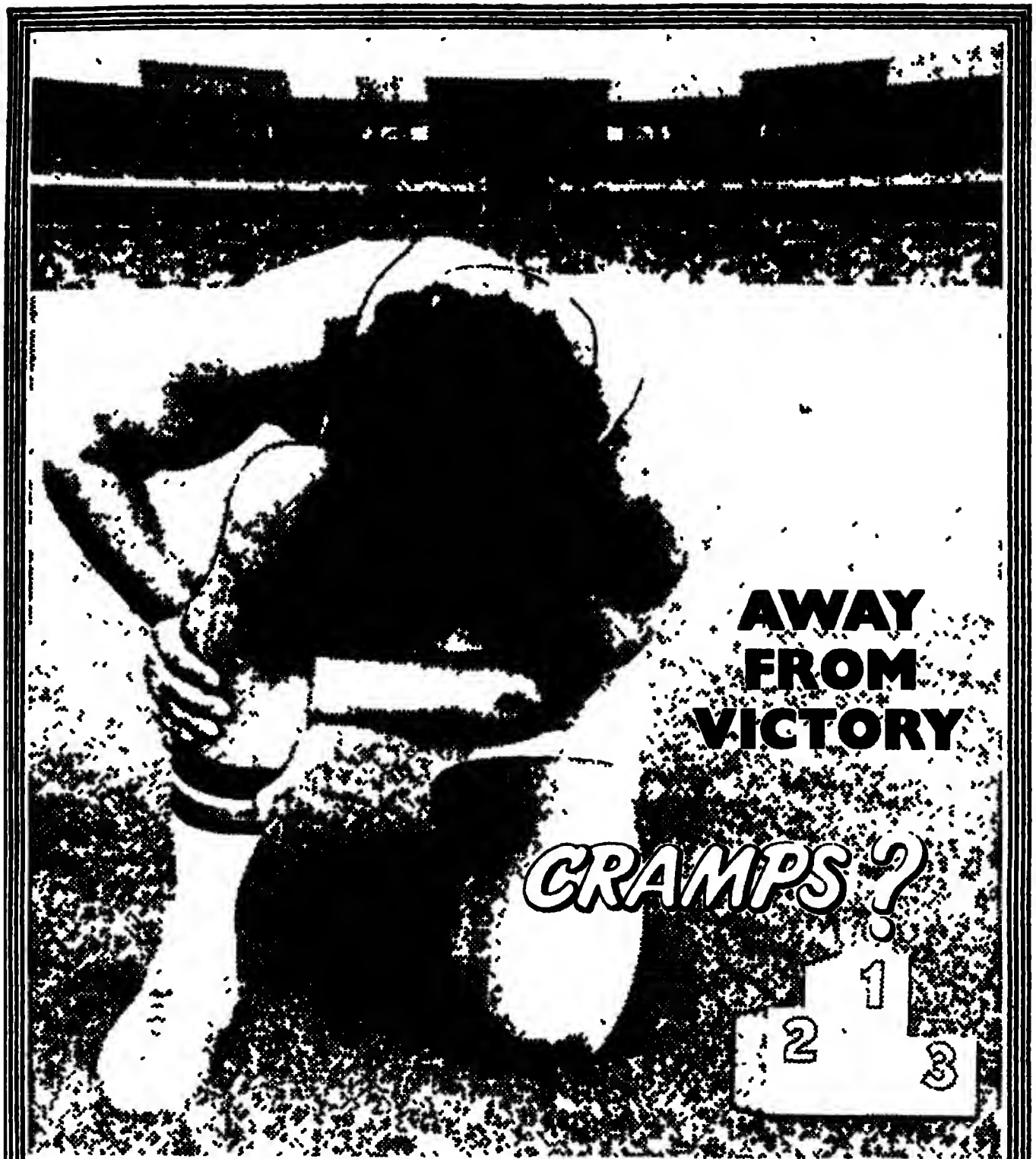
Mohun Bagan were given a fight by Matatal as the latter ended the first leg leading 3-1. Matatal fully deserved their victory thanks to their wily old fox Ranjit Thapa. Pran Chatterjee, Ratan Thapa and Ranjit Thapa helped Matatal climb to a 3-0 lead which was reduced by Krishanu Dey after receiving a low pass from Manas Bhattacharya.

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In the second leg Mohun Bagan were a different team altogether. Francis D'Souza, Xavier Pius, Subroto Bhattacharya and Shibaji Banerjee, who had missed the first leg were back in the team. Bagan played professionally and faced the two goal deficit with confidence. And though Ranjit Thapa once again played well, Mafatlal played without a plan. With striker Fidelis Cardoso being sent to the dressing room, Mafatlal were up against it. After Bagan drew level, the Bombay millmen were a demoralised lot. Though the fate of the match was decided through tie-breaker, a win for Bagan was always on the cards.

In the pre-quarter final league group, one witnessed exciting competition, as Dempo and JCI fought to earn the right to play in the quarter finals. The issue was finally clinched by JCI because of their victories over RCI, Morarjee Mills and the draw they secured against Dempo. JCI pipped Dempo to the post with a higher number of goals in their account.

Salgaocar hoisted facile wins over PSEB (3-0) and Mahindras (3-1) to emerge as the Group II winners.

In Group III, Orkay Mills beat Punjab Police (4-2), Premier Tyres (1-0) and drew with SESA (Goa) 1-1. Premier Tyres beat Punjab Police (1-0) and SESA beat Premier Tyres (1-0) and Punjab Police (2-1). Like



Mahindra custodian Andrew Pereira makes a desperate bid to stop Salgaocar's Andrew Pinto

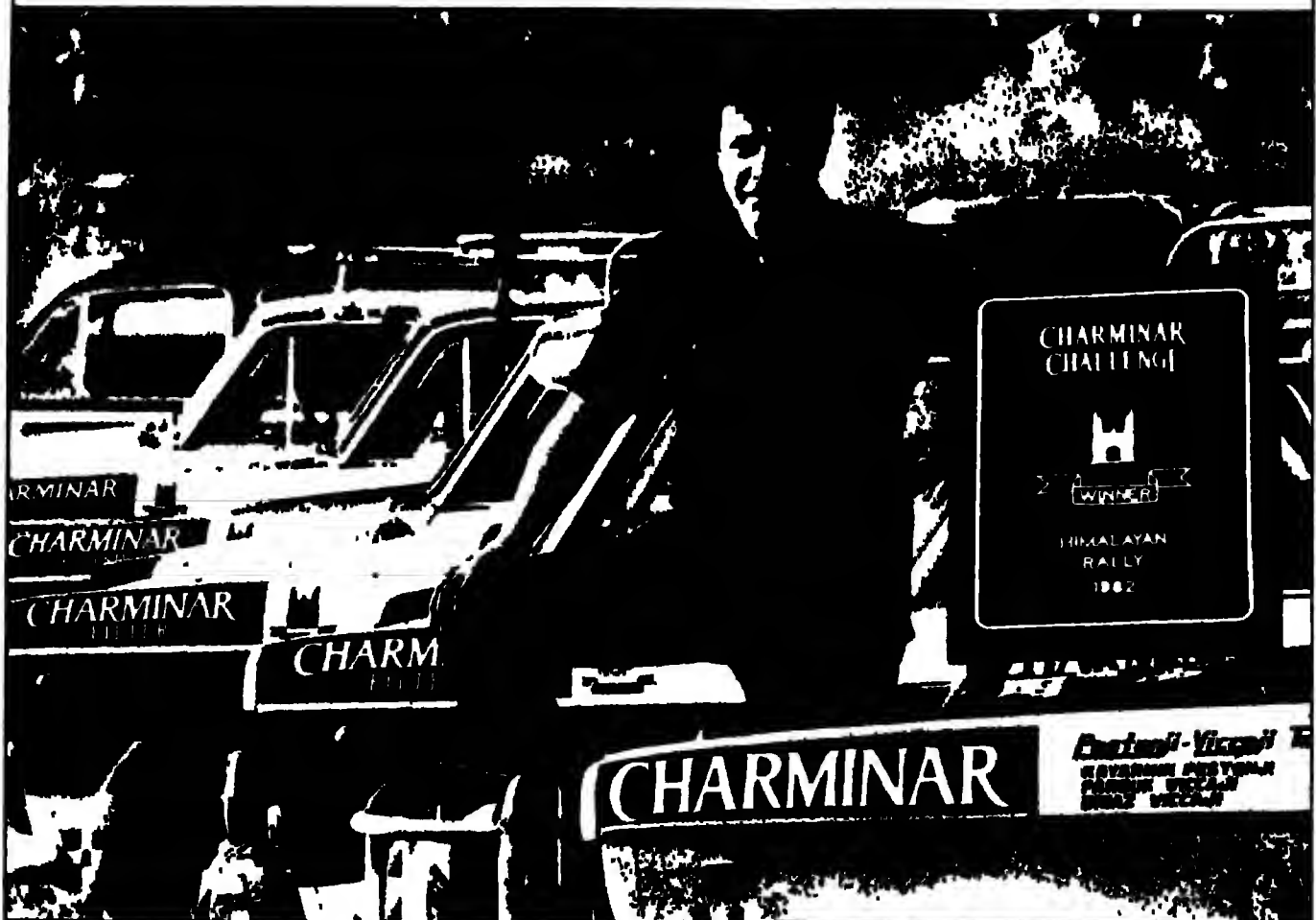
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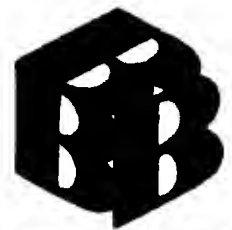
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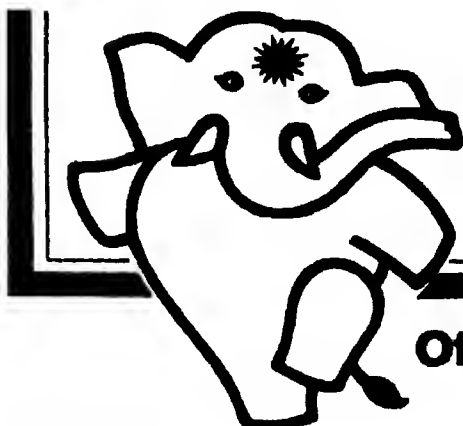
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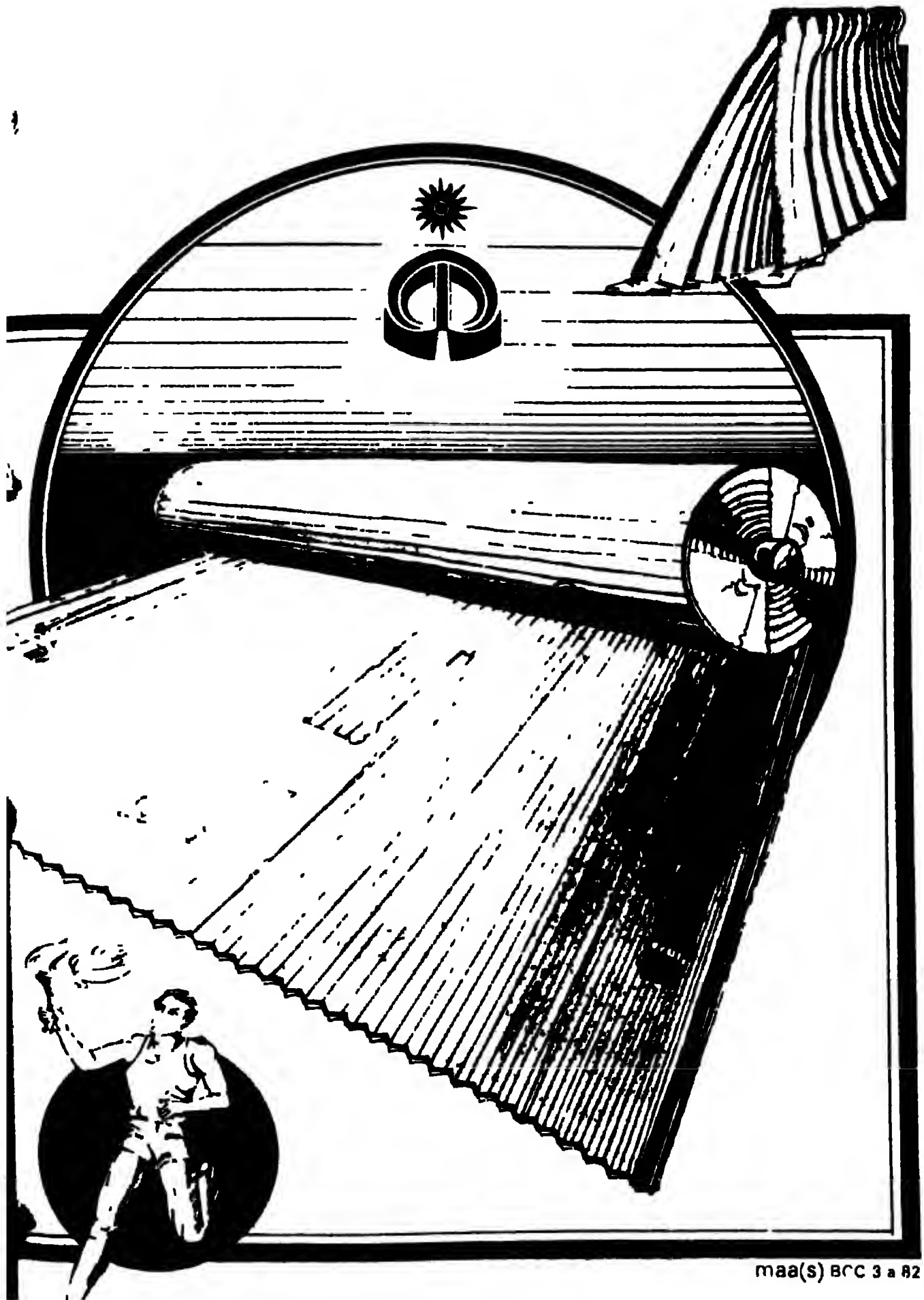
# **BINNY**

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# Dictator in the TTFI

SUJEET MOHANTY

**L**AXMI KARANTH was a quarter-finalist in the Commonwealth Championships. She was ranked seventh after the Palghat Nationals and was almost at the bottom after the Central and North Zonal Championships. Karanth has been selected in the Indian team for the Asiad after having been included in the Asiad camp amidst friction in the TTFI ranks. But surprisingly Laxmi Karanth gave a fitting reply to her critics by coming out first in the Asiad trials, in the absence of Indu Puri who was reported sick.

The entire TTFI administrative and selection committee structure

has been divided into two camps because of the inclusion of Laxmi Karanth in the Asiad coaching camp in spite of the fact that she was placed seventh in the national ranking. The controversy started when Laxmi was sent for training to Pyong Yang by the TTFI since her expenses were financed by the Syndicate Bank, Bangalore. The TTFI sent her in spite of her low ranking, with a view to encouraging youngsters. But surprisingly, the TTFI asked her to be sent back to India since the federation felt her money or expenses were not deposited to the TTFI account. And in her place Rita

Jain (Railways) the blue-eyed girl of the TTFI secretary M C Chouhan was immediately sent to Pyong Yang and Japan for further training.

It is reliably learnt that it was because of this that G Jagannath, a national selector from Bangalore resigned because the TTFI had no business to send Laxmi Karanth back to India. In September 1982 the TTFI selection committee met at Delhi to decide the composition of the Asiad coaching camp. The selection committee felt that the camp ought to be reduced to six women and eight men. This was decided one day before the executive committee meeting. But

## A bad deal for Rajat Kathuria

**R**AJAT KATHURIA has certainly been amongst the unlucky one. In early 1981, following a superb performance throughout the season, capped by a second position at the Nationals, he was dropped from the Indian team for the World Championships. The reason then was that he was taking school-leaving examinations, and was unable to attend all of the two months camp the TTFI had organised.

This time there is not even the semblance of a justification for his non selection. One has only to consider the weight of evidence. The Trial Games in table tennis were held from 11-14 September. The TTFI announced that these Games were to be an important event for the selection of the Asiad probables. On the eve of the Games, Rajat developed 'Dengue' fever and was unable to participate in the Games. Subsequently, he found his name missing from the list of eight probables for the Asiad. Was it his fault that he got the fever?

This player is ranked fourth in the country. Actually third if the TTFI revises its 'ranking' list—long overdue. Because of this, he was scheduled to clash with Manjit Dua in the second round itself—a strange situation for players ranked three and four in the country to be in.

He has represented India only

2½ months ago at the Pyong Yang Open in North Korea as part of a 5-member team. He was a member of the Indian team in the Commonwealth Championships at Bombay in February.

Rajat is young and very promising player, a fact that even the TTFI acknowledges. He improved dramatically in the space of just one season to jump from second in the Junior Nationals in 1979-80 to second in the Senior Nationals in 1980-81. The Korean coach is also disappointed that Rajat was not in the list.

With all these achievements, Rajat did not even find a place in

the first eight of the country. Is it the virus, or was something else biting the TTFI? So many athletes developed the fever, but all got a second chance. After all, the camp and trials were to be held in October, and Rajat could have been asked to prove himself then.

Where lies the solution to this puzzle? Perhaps in the columns of *Sportsworld*. Rajat wrote an article in a September issue of the magazine in which he disclosed that their journey to North Korea for the recent Pyong Yang Open was fraught with difficulty. He also ventured that the selection of the teams should be based on merit. The TTFI may have taken exception to this.

Even if they did, they could have told Rajat that this was avoidable. They certainly bent backwards to condone Manmeet Singh's acts of indiscipline. But since Manmeet had not done anything big enough to rouse the ire of the bosses, he was okay. Rajat, on the other hand, dared to suggest that there were some shortcomings in the TTFI. So he was axed. One can find no other reasonable explanation to the issue, for in all possible objectivity I feel he ought to have at least been given a chance in the probables, given his performance to date.



Rajat Kathuria

A CORRESPONDENT

the very same TTFI selection committee decided to include eight women and eight men for the Asiad Camp. This was done by the TTFI secretary M C Chouhan only with a view to include Rita Jain. And because of this, fortunately, Laxmi Karanth was also included. There was a bitter dispute in the TTFI ranks about this. Suresh Gawde, chairman of the selection committee, wanted that the TTFI unofficial decision—including six women and eight men—to be honoured. Gawde was supported by the TTFI president K K Bhatnagar and the TTFI vice-president Dr Rama Rao. But Suresh Gawde was outvoted in the executive committee meeting by the TTFI secretary M C Chouhan. Due to this, fortune smiled upon Laxmi Karanth and she beat everyone in the camp with her new anti-top spin racket. Ultimately the victim of the entire episode was international Snigdha Mehta, the finest exponent of top-spin in India who is now one of the standbys for the Asiad. Rita Jain, for whose inclusion in the camp all this friction took place, stood seventh in the Asiad Trials. It is ironical that both Rita Jain and Snigdha Mehta who have just come back after a two-month coaching stint in Korea and Japan had to be beaten by Laxmi Karanth in the Asiad Trials and are now out of the India team.

In spite of Laxmi Karanth coming out on top, she does not find a place



M C Chauhan

in the singles event for the Asiad. The singles would be played by Indu Puri and Assam's Monalisa Barua who came second to Laxmi Karanth in the Trials. The argument advanced for this is that Monalisa Barua reached the quarter-finals in a tourney in Japan where even Indu Puri had lost earlier. It is felt that since modern table tennis especially with respect to the Asiad, revolves around offensive play we need a player

unlike Indu Puri. An offensive player is the need of the day. Monalisa Barua, it ought to be noted, is basically a push-player who waits for the right opportunity to score a point after wearing out the patience of her opponent.

It is also reliably learnt that today the TTFI is run singlehandedly by M C Chouhan the secretary. Even the TTFI president and the selection committee take back seats. The selection committee chairman Suresh Gawde seems to be a lone voice against M C Chouhan.

During the present selection of the Indian team G Jagannath had resigned and could not participate in the deliberations. T Thiruvengadam, Randhir Bhatia and Mir Khasim Ali were with the TTFI secretary T Thiruvengadam was made coach for the women's team for the Asiad, Randhir Bhatia the coach for the men's team and Mir Khasim Ali was selected the non-playing captain of both the men's and women's teams for the Asiad. Thus even the selection committee is overruled by the wishes and likes of M C Chouhan. In fact, it is also reliably learnt, that M C Chouhan was very much against making Chandrashekhara the captain of the Indian team for men. Thus, when he found that he could not force this opinion he saw to it that a non-playing captain was appointed for both the men's and women's team.



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**DEODHAR TROPHY**

# Westward Ho!

**T**HE Orissa Cricket Association, despite certain bunglers, added a prestigious feather to its cap by successfully hosting the 10th Inter Zonal limited overs Deodhar Trophy cricket tournament. The tourna-

ment, held from November 3 to 7 at the immaculately maintained Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, saw West Zone pipping North to the Trophy by the proverbial hairbreadth margin of 13 runs in the presence of over

25,000 spectators.

Barabati Stadium and Cuttack achieved a 'double' of sorts this year. Earlier in the month of January, Cuttack had played host to the one-day International between India and England and this month had the privilege of welcoming players from all five Zones for the 50 over matches. Incidentally, all four matches were played on one balding, docile and uninspiring wicket.

This, according to certain visiting officials was surprising, to say the least. According to Mr Sharad Dwadkar, the West Zone manager, the other centres provided fresh tracks for each tie. India and West Zone skipper, Sunil Gavaskar, told this correspondent, "At least the final should have been played on a fresh wicket."

Except the North Central tie, the other matches drew impressive crowds. The demand for tickets for the final was very high and thousands had queued up from the early hours of the morning before the match in front of the stadium for daily tickets. To control the keved-up and milling crowd, the police reportedly had to resort to a lathicharge.

A few days before the commencement of this tournament it was announced that the national selectors would be witnessing the games and be guided by the performances of players here while choosing the India squad for the 1983 Prudential Cup in Ireland. The mode of thinking of the BCCI in this regard leaves one perplexed. After all, the Pakistan and West Indies tours are still to follow. How can one select a player or players on the basis of runs scored or wickets taken in a tournament held seven months before the Prudential Cup?

It is reliably learnt by this correspondent that the selectors have written to the Board asking the governing body to send two of them to Pakistan to watch the one day 'ies.

The most pleasing aspect of this tournament was the way in which some of the young India potential cricketers shaped up. Raman Lamba of Delhi and North Zone played two lovely innings. Against East, in the opening tie, he crashed an effortless 60 runs and reduced the East bowling to shambles. He lapped against Central but notched up 44 good runs in the final. Srikanth, now back in the Test side, massacred the West bowling in the semis and plundered 73 runs in just 69 minutes and off a mere 58 deliveries. He crashed 10 fours and cleared the fence on four occasions. In one particular over, he hit Ravi Shastri for two sixes and an equal number of fours. Gursharan Singh of Delhi, who with the blessings of Dame Luck could make it into the Test side next year, though not too successful with the willow, did impress with his neat stroke-making.



*Sandeep Patil disappointed on the whole*

Among pacemen, T A Sekar of Tamil Nadu and South Zone, Suresh Keshwala of Bombay and West, Anil Mathur of Central and Rakesh Jolly of North caught the eye with superb exhibitions of seam bowling. Shekhar Sahu of East produced a good spell for his team against North and claimed three wickets for 61 runs. A study in economical bowling and a good line and length was Bombay pacer Balwinder Singh Sandhu, in the 16 member squad for the Pakistan tour.

Vedraj kept wickets in an excellent manner in the only match that his team played—the semis against North. It's a pity that this brilliant stumper, who still is very young, has been unfairly overlooked by the selectors for the past six years. Young Kuan More of the West Zone team also impressed while donning gloves. South's S Viswanath, reportedly a Krimant protégé, disappointed while East's Sved Saba Katim's performance was satisfactory.

Spinners were away from the spotlight especially with Srikanth, Kapil and Lamba around. Gopal Sharma of Central however did pose a few problems for North batsmen and bagged three wickets including those of Kapil and Yashpal for 28 runs in 10 overs. Sivaramakrishnan was expensive in claiming the wicket of West skipper Gavaskar.

1981 champion is South Zone, skippered by the charismatic Brijesh Patel, came from Cuttack without regulars Vishwanath, Krimant and Abdul Jabbar. While Vishwanath was tied up with some personal work, Krimant, according to Patel, "was, along with his family, looking after an ailing uncle who was seriously

North Zone presented a depleted look on the first day when they arrived minus Mohinder Amarnath, Suninder Khanna. Guisharan and Maninder Singh. Guisharan did, however, reach Cuttack in time to play in the semis against Central and the final against West. In the absence of Khanna, sidelined due to an injury in the Duleep Trophy final, Yashpal Sharma kept wickets. Mohinder, one was told, had gone abroad on personal work. West, East and Central were at full strength.

East and Central disappointed in batting and fielding. Karan Dube (53) for East and S Chaturvedi (50) for Central were the top scorers for their teams. Though Central impressed with their bowling, their fielding was atrocious and overthrows cost them in the vicinity of 20 runs. The East fielding was equally bad, though they did not 'gift' away too many runs by way of overthrows. The scoring rate of both East and Central was dismal.

The Board of Control for Cricket In India would do well to seed West,



Brijesh Patel

North and South directly into the semis of the Deodhar Trophy and make East and Central fight for a place in the last four stage. On current performances, only one of these two teams should feature in the tournament proper. While East scored 177/9 in the 45 overs bowled to them, Central could total only 184 for eight at the end of the stipulated 50 overs.

East and Central batsmen showed an utter lack of enterprise and their performances with the bat amply illustrated the fact that they are ill-suited for the limited overs and instant brand of cricket. East opener Pranob Roy batted for 51 minutes and struggled for his dozen runs. Arun Lal had been dismissed early otherwise the East scoring rate might just have looked respectable. Thanks to the indifferent and pedestrian bowling of Malhotra, Lamba and Kaypee, East were able to cross the 150-mark.

Two Test discards, Aunshuman Gaekwad and Ashok Malhotra, played fine knocks for West and North respectively. Ghulam Patkar, too, got a 50. Gaekwad, correct in defence, got an invaluable 57 for his side at a time when they were in the dumps against North. Skipper Gavaskar scored 74 excellent runs, though not chanceless, against South in the semis. His, was incidentally, the highest individual score of the

match. Kapil got two consecutive fifties and was named the Best Player of the Tournament. He smashed 73 against East, reaching his 50 in even time, and scored a sedate though thoroughly effective 69 against Central. His runs came off 62 deliveries and had demoralised the Central fielders.

Brijesh Patel and Sandeep Patil were the two major disappointments of the tourney. While Patel got out for 18 at a time when he was looking good, Patil was out of touch in the two innings that he played. He did, however, execute some fine shots in the final, scoring 25, and capped it later on in the day by claiming 3/38 and walking away with the Man of the Match award.

The final, however, did not live up to expectations. After sixes had been struck by Kapil, Srikanth and Patel, to name a few in the earlier matches, there were no overboundaries in the final. The trend for a dull final, sixer wise, had been set in the semi-final clash between North and Central where the only six of the match was struck by Central tailender Banerjee off the bowling of Malhotra in the last ball of the day.

That apart, the final was absorbing and there were ups and downs for both teams before West were successful in restricting the North total to 185 for nine at the end of the 45th over. West on their part had scored 198 for the loss of nine wickets at the end of the 45th over and at the stroke of lunch which signalled the end of the first 210 minutes of play.

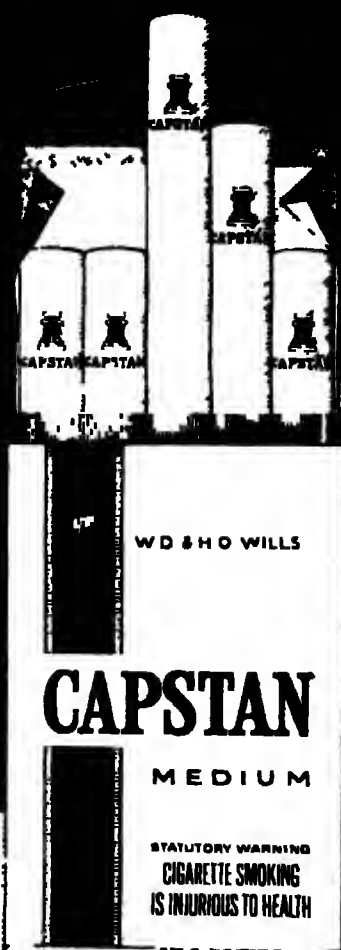
The rules state that if the team fielding first fails to bowl the stipulated 50 overs by the stroke of lunch, the over in progress shall be completed and the innings of the team wielding the willow second will be limited to the same number of overs as the innings of the team which had batted first.

If one were to have conducted a poll in Cuttack to select the most popular player of the tournament, it could well have been a neck-and-neck race between Srikanth and Kapil Dev for top honours. While the former clubbed all that the rival bowlers could offer, the latter went about his task in a cool and methodical manner—a professional to the core.

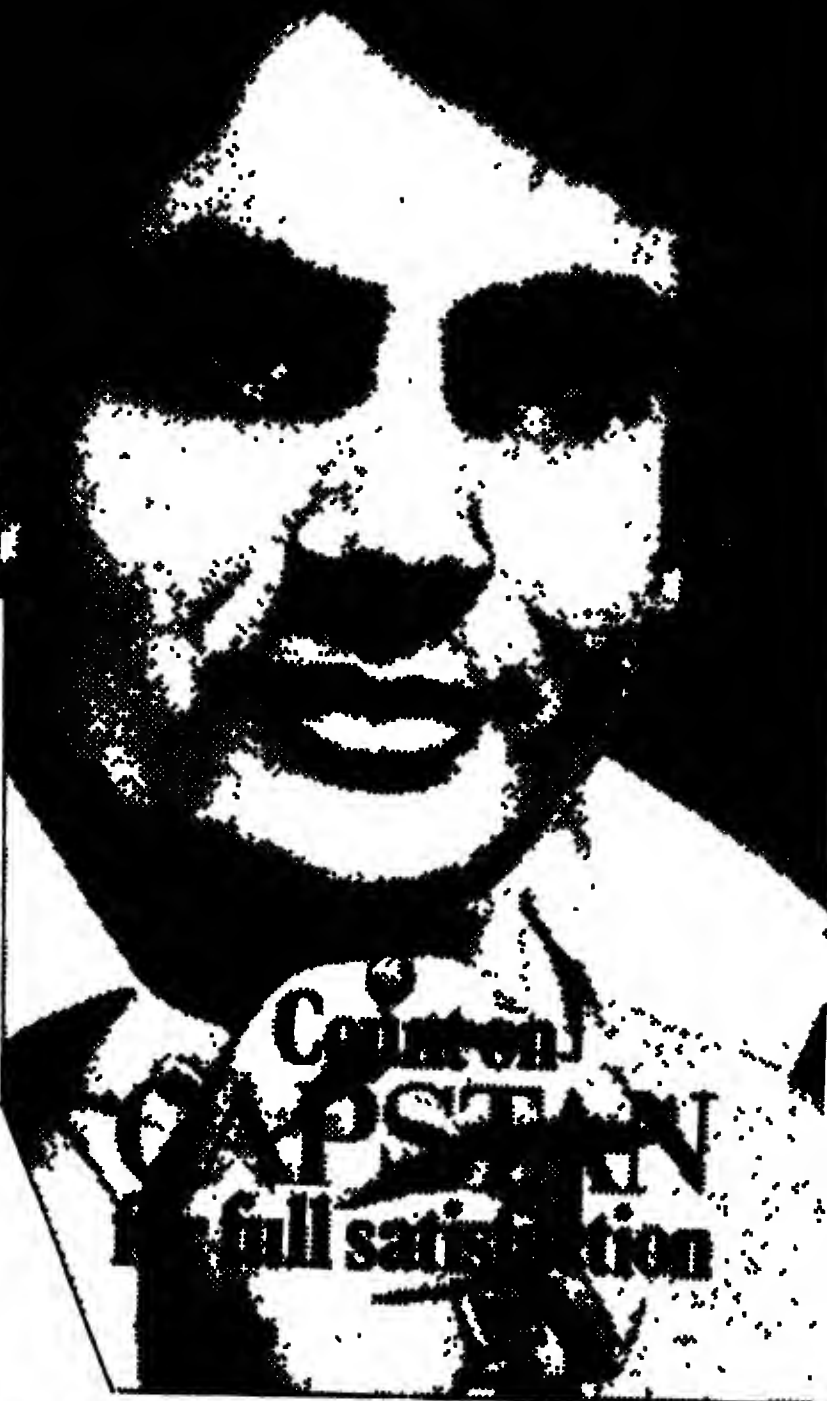
An intriguing part of the atmosphere at the Barabati Stadium is that while the game is in progress, the running commentary in Oriya is blaring from radios and possibly from even a public address system. Not only this, one could even hear loud and irritating film music, something not even remotely connected with the game of cricket. However, as Yashpal Sharma told this correspondent, "While we are on the field, we don't hear anything. We turn deaf."

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# **RALLY NEWS**



## **HIMALAYAN RALLY**

**T**HERE was a gold flag in the right hand of Vice President Hidayatullah. It was zero hour. The only participant who had an international ranking revved up the engine of his Datsun Violet. He was a gentleman named Javant Shah. The Kenyan was the first to be flagged off and, as he proved many tiring miles later, that he was the pick of the lot.

There was much enthusiasm the kind one normally associates with football matches on the Calcutta Maidan or a nail biting finish play in cricket at the Wankhede Stadium in Bombay. Hundreds of schoolchildren were on the lookout to fill up their autograph books while other enthusiasts of this sport—not the most popular ones in the capital and in fact even in the

country—also joined. Nevertheless, the large crowd that turned up to watch the flagging off of the cars may just be enough proof that motor rallying is gaining popularity in the country. Signing autographs and wading off enthusiasts is not the best way of starting an arduous journey but the drivers and crews obliged with good hearted ease.

There was a lot to shout about, as at the starting line there were the cream of contemporary motoring. There were the popular Datsuns, Toyotas, Pugeots and Ladas and the heavier and more rugged Jags and Range Rovers. For those who wanted a touch of the petite the

Mini Moke did the needful.

All said and done, the Guette G4 was the most popular draw. With a sleek racing model look and driven by Leigh Peter Davis and Roger Mugridge. Another person to use a small car—smaller than the one he drove to victory last year—was the Kenyan Ramesh Khoda. The defending champion believed that a smaller car would help in negotiating the route much of which comprised mountains.

The Kenyans were firm favourites to take away top honours judging from their past track record. And win they did. However this might not be a good sign, for in

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# **KEEPING TRACK**

# RALLY NEWS



The impressive lineup of contestants

the future the Kenyans would send weaker competitors here reserving their best for the rallies on the European circuit

Teams which did not lack in enthusiasm were the seven that were sponsored by the Army Adventure Federation. The 'star' of the different army drivers was Colonel Pankaj Joshi. The Colonel was the victim of an explosion while clearing a mine field in Sikkim and as a result had to have both his legs amputated. His morale was not shattered and now with the help of artificial legs he is slowly overcoming his disability (he refuses to call it a handicap). Colonel Joshi's Joga was there and so were another 71 vehicles all itching to give the

tough 4000-kilometre route a try

Coming to the running of the four leg rally, where should one start? There were so many thrills and anecdotes, so let's begin from the very beginning. An early leader was the Kenyan, not the hot favourite Jayant Shah, but his compatriot Mahesh Patel who was the first competitor to drive into Dehradun. However, the first leg culminated at Nainital and by this time Patel had squandered his lead to Jayant Shah.

Shah's effort was all the more

praiseworthy because his car gave him engine trouble en route as a result of which he lost valuable 40 minutes. Of the 63 cars flagged off from Dehradun, besides the ones of the leader and Patel, Rudolf Stohl driving a Lada and the defending champion Ramesh Khoda were others to check in early. It was only the first quarter of the rally, but there was enough of rain, slush and dirt tracks to test the durability of the vehicles and the nerves of the navigators and the driver. Rally control described the first part of the rally as 'real tough' and this was only a preview of worse things to come. The competitors had earned their night-long rest and again took up the challenge on the first day of November at 0800 hours.

The Delhi-Dehradun-Nainital first leg, now that we look back on it, was comparatively easy than the second leg. The latter took the motorists towards Almora and onto Bering and then Ranikhet. It is here that they would have a brief halt for the second punching control.

After the second punching control at Ranikhet, the cars would leave after night fall. They were then scheduled to proceed towards Badrinath crossing over a high forest road coming at 10,600 feet to Trilwara, Tehri and the Queen of the hill stations, Mussoorie. It is here that the second leg is scheduled to conclude.

There were more dropouts as the cars attempted to negotiate the dizzy heights of Tehri Garhwal. The French crew comprising Pelletaine and Dand were the unlucky ones as they were involved in a major collision with a truck. Fortunately no one was injured.

The team from Kuwait came very close from dropping out of the rally, when their Suzuki all but swerved off the road. Actually it did, but

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# KEEPING TRACK

# RALLY NEWS

SUNIL MALHOTRA



Jayant Shah and Aslam Khan celebrate their victory

then this is what motor rallying is all about—the car swerved right back. The entry from the UAE was not so lucky and they had succumbed to brake failure. There were also incidents of stone throwing as a result of which an Indian entry driving an Ambassador and another local competitor were forced to withdraw.

Coming back to the leaders, well it looks to be Jayant Shah all the way. He proved that his victory in the first leg was no fluke by being the first to check in at the end of the second leg at Mussorie. Shah completed the 960 kilometres second leg an hour and nine minutes before the ideal time which was allotted to him. A surprise second at this stage was Harvijay Singh Bahia driving a BMW 323 from West Germany. There was only a seven-minute difference between the first two cars that checked in and as much as a full hour between them and Ramesh Khoda who was the third entry to check in.

Eight cars were forced to pull out of the 4,000 kilometres rally when it was in the second leg of its running. Devinder Singh of Kenya was forced to pull out near Kundghat because his Honda Civic suffered a breakdown near Kundghat. Most cars did not have many problems on the first part of the second leg which took them to Tilwara but encountered problems from this point to the conclusion of the second leg.

Jayant Shah at this stage was the only competitor going great guns with the other placings changing hands as much as the drivers changed their gears.

The third leg of the gruelling rally was scheduled to take the rallyists to Manali from Mussorie. They were flagged off from the latter place at the ungodly hour of two in the morning (night is what most people would prefer to call it).

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# KEEPING TRACK

# RALLY NEWS

From Manali the rallyists would have to wind their way up the 10,300 feet Jalorie Pass, a section that has been described as the 'firecracker' by the Chairman of the Himalayan Rally Association Mr. Nazir Hossein. It was. But then it is only moments and challenges like these that make motor rallying the interesting and adventurous sport that it is.

The first to cross the Jalorie Pass was the favourite Jayant Shah, who slowly but surely was establishing an unbeatable lead over his rivals. After crossing the Pass, Shah in his Datsun Violet was under full control on the way to Manali. Shah at this stage had a mere 479 penalty points, most of which were levied on this part of the rally, but was still well clear of his rivals.

A total of 28 cars left Narkhanda on the way to the Jalorie Pass and even though the latter was negotiated in brilliant sunshine, there was still sufficient enough of challenge to bring out the best in the participants.

Rally drivers from different parts of the globe who have taken part in the past two Himalayan rallies have always maintained that it is more advisable to use a small car in the rally. The smaller car will help negotiating the hair-pin bends and other such challenges that the Himalayas offer. Keeping this in mind, probably, last year's champion Ramesh Khoda chose to drive a Datsun Mini. The small vehicle gave him good support particularly on this section and he closed the gap considerably between the leader Shah and him. Khoda was the third to report at Mussoorie at the conclusion of the second leg. He overtook the Soviet made car, a Lada driven by the Austrian Rudolf Stohl as also Harvijay Singh on the



Aslam Khan with a fan after his victory

road to report second at Narkhanda.

After 3,500 kilometres of the rally had gone by it was clear to all and sundry that Jayant Shah would come out on top.

At Mandi, which was only 450 kilometres from the Capital the Austrian Rudolf Stohl and last year's overall champion Ramesh Khoda had incurred 734 and 736 penalty points respectively and were, for all practical purposes out of the race for the top spot. Shah on the other hand had only incurred 473 penalty points.

The third sector of the rally also saw many cars back out, but still in the running at this stage was the lone woman competitor Minu Bakshi. Minu who is placed in the class 16 category was at this stage still in the running for a trophy.

At the completion of the third leg

the Indian team comprising Vicky Chandok and Sreekant Jha had a total of slightly over 1300 points and were in the running for finishing in the top ten at the conclusion of the rally in Delhi. In the four wheel jeep category (class 18), two Jongsas, both entries of the Indian army—one driven by Khuro Jalamwala and Ashok Suri—at this stage still had a good chance of bagging prizes. However, there was only one thing that was sure. Jayant Shah only had to complete the rally to come out on top and sip the champagne.

In fact, there were no upsets. Jayant Shah was too experienced a rally driver to let such an opportunity slip and was the first to pass the chequered flag far ahead of his rivals. There was much jubilation when the Datsun Violet roared into the ground, where normally polo is played, to come home an easy winner. He had won a really tough motoring event with a total of 500 points. A man always in the background, but who played as important a part to bring the Datsun Violet out on top was Shah's co-driver Aslam Khan. They collected a glittering All India Trophy, Rs 50,000 in cash, but what is more is that they surely gained a lot of satisfaction by winning this prestigious rally.

There was a tie for second position. Last year's champion Ramesh Khoda had to be content to share the runners-up berth with the Austrian Rudolf Stohl who was doing consistently well throughout the whole course.

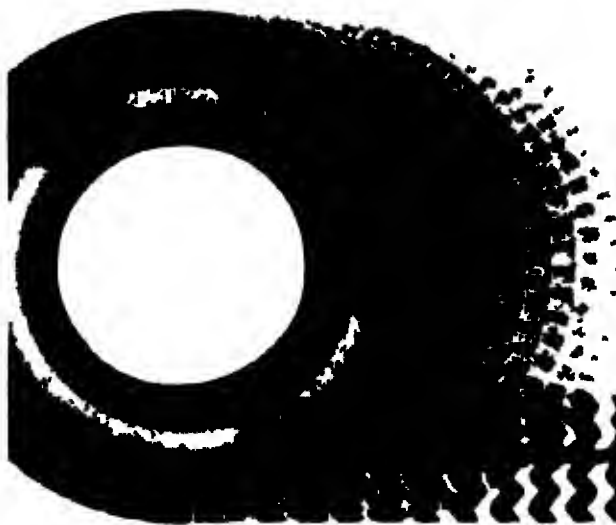
Minoo Nanavaty kept the Indian flag flying when he was the sixth competitor to cross the finish line.

But there is more to rally driving than just winning. The Third Himalayan Rally is only just over, but the enthusiasm of motor rallying will never die. So tune up your engines.

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## Regional round-up

### CALCUTTA

#### Karatekas return

**T**HERE are very few sports in which India can claim to have some sort of standing in Asia. Full contact karate happens to be one of the rare disciplines, at least if one goes by the performance of the two Indian entries in the recently concluded First South-East Asia Full Contact Open Karate Championship is concerned. At the Singapore meet, India, as a team came first, and individually the two participants, Shibaji Ganguly and Kishore Lal came second and third respectively. The two have since returned.

Originally nine countries—Nepal, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Indonesia and India were supposed to take part in the championship. But at the last moment, Burma, the Philippines and Indonesia withdrew, to leave the challenge among six nations. Japan did not participate but acted as officials of the tournament.

Shibaji Ganguly can consider himself unlucky not to have won the individual title. Pitted against Jagat Gauchan of Nepal, Shibaji and Jagat drew the first round (three minutes). As per the rules, the second (extension) round was introduced which also ended in a draw. The third round also could not produce any result and therefore both were told to break tiles, to prove who was stronger. Jagat managed to break all the five tiles and Shibaji also broke the five tiles. At this stage the weights of the two fighters were taken and while Ganguly stood at 65 kgs, Gauchan's weight was 68 kgs. But since the difference was not more than five, another round of fight was ordered. It was at this stage that Shibaji lost on points.

Incidentally, both Shibaji (26) and Kishore (25) has started practising the art at about the same time, in 1977, under Dadi Bulsara, who went with them as the coach. Right from the beginning, both went for full contact (kyokushinkai-Kau) karate "because it is more thrilling," said Shibaji. Both competed in the Nationals in 1978 where Kishore came second and Shibaji fourth and in the next year, Shibaji was selected to represent the country in the world championship at Tokyo, Japan but there he lost in the first round itself. "It was my first experience in international competitions and I was very nervous," said Shibaji Ganguly when contacted in the city.

SARAJIT DES

### BOMBAY

#### Devastating Dinyar

**D**INYAR ALI KHAN continued his winning streak when he notched up a triumph in the Maharashtra State Open Squash Championships. It was his second consecutive tournament win in as many weeks.

In the men's final in Bombay, Dinyar beat Major Raj Manchanda in four games 6-9, 9-4, 9-5, 9-1. The 22-year old Dinyar needed just a little under an hour to demolish Manchanda.

Dinyar Ali Khan, who lost to Manchanda in the semi-finals of the Nationals, has in the past fortnight registered victories against the cream of Indian squash players. Maj Manchanda, Ananth Nayak, Narjit Singh and Vikas Kapoor have wilted under the onslaught of Dinyar's racket.

Talking of his recent win over Manchanda, Dinyar said, "Today I beat him at his own game. He likes to play a slow game and I did not try to force the pace. The rallies became long and told on him in the latter games."

After losing in the first game, Bhuvaneshwari Kumari recovered to trounce Honey Sharma in the women's event. The scores were 3-9, 9-6, 9-0, 9-0.

Like in the women's event, the Junior Boys section also had the same finalists as in the previous week. And the same players triumphed. In the boy's final, Darius Pandole beat Ashish Kamat 6-9, 9-1, 9-0, 9-1.

HARESH MUNWANI

### MADRAS

#### IOB win

**I**NDIAN Overseas Bank retained the Rajapalayam Trophy for basketball when they defeated Indian Bank 78-66 in the final. IOB with experienced players like Anthony Karunakaran and Adimoolan in their ranks, had little difficulty in keeping their hold on the title. Adimoolan particularly was in fine form, basking from all angles and pouncing on the rebounds. He scored 28 points, while Karunakaran who played the leading supporting role got 19. IOB were up 38-30 at the interval. In both the sessions, Indian Bank did put up a game fight but IOB's superiority was never in doubt.

In the semi-final IOB scored over State Bank in a fast paced encounter.

After leading 41-36 at half time, IOB went on to score a 75-68 victory. Again Karunakaran and Adimoolan were the stars of IOB's triumph while Premnath put in a stellar show for State Bank scoring 20 points. In the other semi-final, Indian Bank scored an exciting 61-57 victory over Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

### CHANDIGARH

#### PSEB win

**T**HE Chandigarh crowd witnessed a brilliant hockey in the twelfth All India Gurmit Memorial Hockey Tournament when in the finals defending champions PSEB beat the star-studded Punjab Police by a late second half goal through left extreme Paramjit Grewal. However, young Namdhari who reached the semi-finals on their way beating the fancied Civil Secretariat, by a convincing margin of four zero.

In the finals the tough policemen started as if they were going to coast to a comfortable and impressive win. But the powermen were inspired from the announcement from the president of the Chandigarh Hockey Association that a diet money of Rs 1,000 per member would go to the winners. It indeed was their fighting spirit that saw them recover from the first half one goal deficit and score two goals in the second half and defend their goal zealously for the last 17 minutes.

Punjab Police drew first blood in the opening minute through their centre forward Jagdeep Singh but the goal was disallowed for off side. They forced two penalty corners in the first six minutes and saw their skipper Surjit Singh hitting the goalpost from the third penalty corner that came in the sixth minute. It was PSEB's turn when they wasted two penalty corners in the 12 and 13 minutes. Fifteen minutes later left-inside Surinder Singh Sodhi failed to connect a centre from Charanjit Kumar with an empty goal in front of him. Three minutes later Jagdeep scored a gem of a goal when he dribbled past a hoard of defenders before gently placing the ball home to put the policemen one up. PSEB restored parity in the second half when Paramjit Grewal scored from a solo effort. Ten minutes later he followed it up with an opportunist goal by connecting a cross from the right flank to put the defending champions ahead. PSEB held on, and the trophy was theirs.

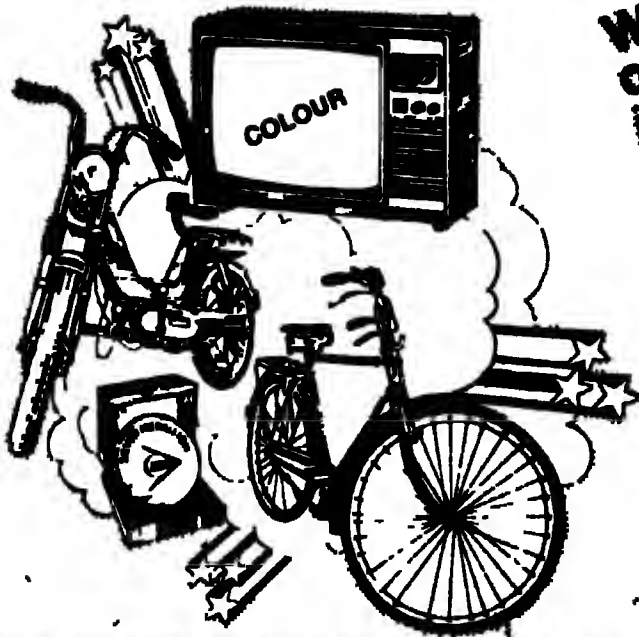
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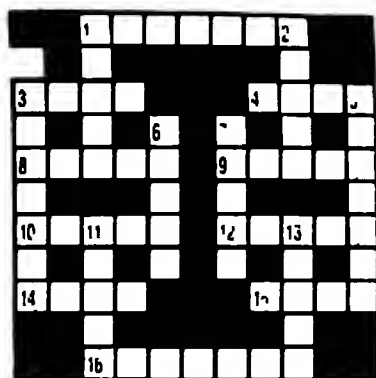
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# Crossword

MUDAR

173



## ACROSS

- 1 Famous young swimmer ends in a pig extract (7)
- 3 Month in which the Benson and Hedges Final is played (4)
- 4 Indian swimmer of international fame (1 3)
- 8 American tennis player who made his debut in the Davis Cup only recently (5)
- 9 A game between Yorkshire and Lancashire is a—match returns (5)
- 10 An oven for a woman tennis player of Holland
- 12 Manager of English team to India last year also the hitter of a century on debut for England versus Australia (1 1 3)
- 14 The number of players in a baseball team (4)
- 15 Name of a hard hitting batsman from the West Indies and a bowler of sorts is the same as that of a tennis legend (4)
- 16 One of England's cricket team now touring Australia (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Hammond popularly known as? (5)
- 2 A prophet for an Olympic hurdler (5)
- 3 Former England cricketer who was born in India (7)
- 5 Olympic champion at pole vaulting whose first name is Ludwin (7)
- 6 What a golfing area is also referred to besides a 'link' (5)
- 7 If only a cricketing rubber could—cricketing defeats, the answer returning (5)
- 11 New Zealand's tennis star whose surname is Perin (5)
- 13 One of the ways to—the standard of performance is through sheer hard work (5)

# Question box

Sudhir Vachya

Godopalli Sunil, Vizianagaram

Q Are there any instances of the batsman getting out off the very first ball of a Test match? Did Gavaskar ever get out off very first ball of the match?

A There is a total of seven instances of an opening batsmen getting dismissed off the very first ball of a Test match. Sunil Gavaskar of India was dismissed off the very first ball of the third Test against England at Birmingham in 1974 when G G Arnold had him caught by wicketkeeper Knott.

Mahender, Huzurabad, and Mrs Maitrayee Banerjee, Durgapur

Q What are the Test bowling figures of Botham and Kapil Dev?

A At the conclusion of the cricket season in England in 1982, their figures were—Botham 12767 balls, 506 maidens, 5807 runs 249 wickets, 23 32 average 20 times with five or more wickets in an innings and four times with over 10 wickets in a match. Kapil Dev 9389 balls 322 maidens, 4812 runs 163 wickets 29 52 average, 12 times with five wickets in an innings and once with over 10 wickets in a match.

Pradeep Kumar Agarwal, Jhansi

Q Who was the first victim of Gary Sobers?

A Trevor Bailey of England in the fifth Test at Kingston in 1953-54.

Q When did Bishan Singh Bedi make his Test debut and what was his best bowling performances in Test?

A B S Bedi commenced his Test career in the second Test against West Indies at Calcutta in 1966-67. Tests since then his best bowling has been seven for 98 against Australia at Calcutta in 1969-70.

Narayan Adakar, Belpahar

Q In Test history who has done double hat-trick while bowling?

A No one so far.

Q In how many Test series has Sunil Gavaskar been captain for India and how many times has he won or lost the series?

A Sunil Gavaskar has led India in eight series beginning from the one against

the West Indies in 1978-79. He won the Test series against West Indies in 1978-79, Australia and Pakistan in India in 1979-80 and England in India in 1981-82. He lost the series against New Zealand in New Zealand in 1980-81, England in England in 1982 and drew the series against Australia in Australia in 1980-81 and Sri Lanka in 1982-83.

Santosh Mahapatra, residence not stated.

Q Has Bihar ever entered the final or the semi-final of the Ranji Trophy?

A Yes, in 1975-76 when Bihar were the runners-up in the tourney.

Sumitra Deyanath, Bhubaneswar

Q Who is the youngest player to play for India in Tests?

A Vijay Mehra, who made his debut for India at an age of 17 years and 300 days in the second Test against New Zealand at Bombay in 1955-56.

Pradip Chowdhury, Abhijit Ghosh, Ranchi.

Q Name the wicketkeeper who has stumped the most number of batsmen in Tests.

A W A S Oldfield of Australia has the most stumpings—52 in 54 Tests—to his credit in Tests.

# Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

## QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks

- 1 FISU stands for the ----
- 2 ---- described Sir Donald Bradman's retirement thus 'Brightly Fades the Don'
- 3 India played in the Davis Cup inter-zone final for the first time in the year----
- 4 K D Jadav gave India the Olympic wrestling bronze (in 1952) in the ---- class
- 5 Sandhya Chandra the famous swimmer was selected to represent India in ---- but was dropped at the eleventh hour
- 6 Uday Chand of India won a ---- medal in lightweight in the World Wrestling championship in 1961
- 7 India won the ---- medal in volleyball in the Jakarta Asiad
- 8 Michael Broadley led the ---- University cricket team
- 9 Colin Milburn was only a little over ---- when he hit a century for the Minor Counties against the touring Indian side
- 10 Donald Budge's feat of winning the Grand Slam was emulated by Rod Laver ---- years later

## ANSWERS

- 1 International University Sports Federation
- 2 Jack Fingleton
- 3 1956
- 4 Bantamweight
- 5 the Rome Olympics
- 6 bronze
- 7 silver
- 8 Cambridge
- 9 16
- 10 25

## SOLUTION 172



**K. Q. Sathyanarayanan, Madras**  
**Q.** What are the addresses of I T Botham and Kapil Dev?  
**A.** You may write to Botham care his County Somerset County Cricket Ground, St James Street, Taunton TA11 1JT (United Kingdom) For Kapil Dev, you may write to him care, Haryana Cricket Association Vijayanagar Colony Near Hans Gate Bhiwani 125 021  
**V. H. Kalkutski, Kothapur**  
**Q.** What is Dilip Vengsarkar's date of birth?  
**A.** Vengsarkar was born on 6 April 1956 in Bombay  
**Sombit Das, New Stanagar**  
**Q.** When was Kapil Dev born? How many runs has he scored and how

many wickets has he captured in Tests?  
**A.** Kapil Dev was born on 6 January, 1959 at Chandigarh. He has scored 1821 runs and captured 163 wickets in 42 Tests for India

**K. R. Hari Kumar, Cochin**  
**Q.** How many Test centuries and half centuries has Dilip Vengsarkar scored?  
**A.** Vengsarkar has hit six centuries and 15 half centuries in 52 Tests for India  
**P. K. Paul, Jamshadpur**  
**Q.** Has Farookh Engineer scored a century in Tests for India? If so, give details  
**A.** Yes, he scored two centuries for India—109 against West Indies at Madras in 1966-67 and 121 against England at Bombay in 1972-73

**Raja Phatani, Raipur; Umakant Pathak, Bombay and Nayan Soyankar, Ahmedabad.**  
**Q.** Is there any player who has played for both England and India? If so, name the player

**A.** Yes, Ifikar Ali Khan Pataudi, formerly known as Nawab of Pataudi, i.e., father of M. A. K. Pataudi  
**Q.** On which ground was the first Tests between England and India in each of the countries was played?  
**A.** At Lord's in England in 1932 and at the Bombay Gymkhana in India in 1933-34  
**Dushyant M. Vyas, Bombay**  
**Q.** How many Tests have Gavaskar and Vishwanath played for India?  
**A.** Gavaskar has played in 79 Tests, whereas Vishwanath has played 85

## Bridge

Boris Schapiro

To what lengths do you go to find a 4-4 major suit fit when both you and your partner hold reasonably balanced hands? It is a curious decision, for, even if both hands are distributed 4-3-3-3, you can come across deals where good trumps improve your chances in the suit contract. Against that, it can easily prove the case that nine tricks are easier than 10, and I tend to avoid too many unnecessary Stayman enquiries. One thought, of course, is that if a partnership has plenty of points, then finding the 4-4 fit may be the only way to lose a game if your trump suit breaks badly. Conventions have been devised (SID - Stayman in Doubt) to check whether partner, as well as holding a major suit is 4-3-3-3. But the natural use of these bids seems more useful. There are few substitutes for judgment.

♠ KQ63  
 ♥ 962  
 ♦ AJ6  
 ♣ J62

♠ 54  
 ♥ K10853  
 ♦ 952  
 ♣ AQ5

♠ 1097  
 ♥ J7  
 ♦ Q873  
 ♣ 10873

♠ AJS2  
 ♥ AQ4  
 ♦ K104  
 ♣ K94

Well, would you rather be in 3 NT or four spades? I don't think that there is much choice - clearly nine tricks will be much easier than 10, especially if West (having been given no clues by the bidding) makes his natural heart lead. Follow the play through - declarer wins ♥ J with his Queen and can see eight top winners. One or two things seem clear - either a winning diamond guess or finding ♣ A well placed will solve his problems, but there is also an excellent chance of an end-play. South found the right answer very quickly. He won East's ♥ J with the Queen, cashed exactly three rounds of spades, then got off lead with Ace and another heart. West won and cashed his extra two heart tricks while declarer let go two clubs from dummy and a spade and club from

hand. Whatever West played next gave South his ninth trick.

Two points to note. If South had played off four rounds of spades, he would have had no good discard on the last heart and would have gone off against best defence. The other thought - how would you have got on in four spades? Last week's quiz: At game all as South you held ♠ J93, ♥ AJ972, ♦ A83, ♣ Q5. North opened one diamond, you responded one heart (that was easy!) but now North bid two diamonds. You are certainly worth another move - North could hold ♠ Axx, ♥ x, ♦ KQxxxx, ♣ Axx and have had little choice so far. But to bid an immediate 3 NT might lead to a silly contract and a race to three diamonds doesn't get over the full strength of your hand. As four diamonds goes past 3 NT, I think that I would invent a bid of two spades. There is no real danger of being raised, (partner would have bid one spade over one heart if he had held four cards in spades) and even if we still end in 3 NT with less than ideal hands, it may not be so easy for the opponents to lead spades. This week's quiz: At love all as South you hold ♠ KQ, ♥ AJ976, ♦ 4, ♣ KQ643. North deals and opens one spade, you respond two hearts and North raises to three hearts. How should you proceed?

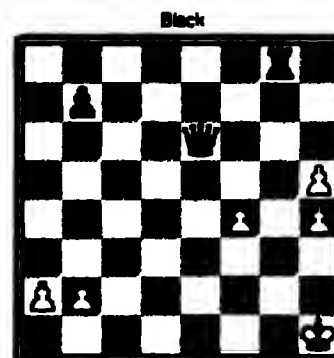
## Chess

Peter Clarke

During the summer the publishers of chess books try to retain the attention of all those players whose clubs have shut down and who have turned to more vigorous activities. In the last couple of months six new books have arrived on my desk, covering a broad range of topics. As usual, though, the openings claim the lion's share (three titles), and top of the list must be the long awaited *Modern Chess Openings*. The first edition of this work, edited by R. C. Griffith and J. H. White, came out in 1911 and ran to 190 pages, the price was 2s 6d (or 3s 6d for an interleaved copy), and the postage charge on it was 1½d (or 2½d). This latest edition, the twelfth, is 457 pages in length and published by Adam & Charles Black at £8.95 (like the first edition, a softback, but now there is no interleaved version). The editor, the American master Walter Korn, states in

the Preface that "no radical revamping of the established framework" was needed for MCO12 and reminds readers that the book is not intended to be an encyclopedia. In this way, the cynic might say, he defends himself from the criticism that he has failed to revise and update the previous edition properly. It was, however, an impossible task in this age of increasing international competition and the playing of thousands of games at master level each year. Expert tournament players must look elsewhere for the latest theoretical developments, but the ordinary amateur, who confines himself to club and county events and perhaps the occasional weekend congress, will still find MCO a useful, if not indispensable, guide to the openings. The basic ideas are elucidated in the introductory passages, and the expansion of some footnotes to include complete games helps to clarify the strategic themes which inexorably lead into the next phase of the struggle.

Competition 8846. Solution next week.



White

Black to play and mate in five. Grade 2 (easy)  
 Solution to 8844 (Epstein - Benjamen, Summering, 1992). (4r1k1/q1n1p2/p1p2p2/2c1p2p2p2/2p2p2p2/2p2p2p2/2p2p2p2/2p2p2p2) - White to play. The vulnerability of the black King was exploited by 30 R2-B6ch, K-R1 31 B-K7ch, Kx8, 32 R2xRch, K-R3, 33 Qx8P, and Black resigned.

Problem No 1211. Solution next week  
 P. Blumel (La Solente, 1945)  
 (1r6/2R2P1r1R2/2p1p2p2/2p1p2p2/2p1p2p2/2p1p2p2/2p1p2p2/2p1p2p2) - 12 white men, 7 black  
 White to play and mate in two moves

Solution to No 1210 (Blumel)  
 (1R2/2P2/1R1R1P2/2P2/2P2/2P2/2P2/2P2) - mate in two. 1 Q-B6 (threat 2 Q-K8)  
 (a) 1 QxR2, 2 R-K5, (b) 1 R-K8ch, 2 R-K4, (c) 1 R-K7ch, 2 R-K3

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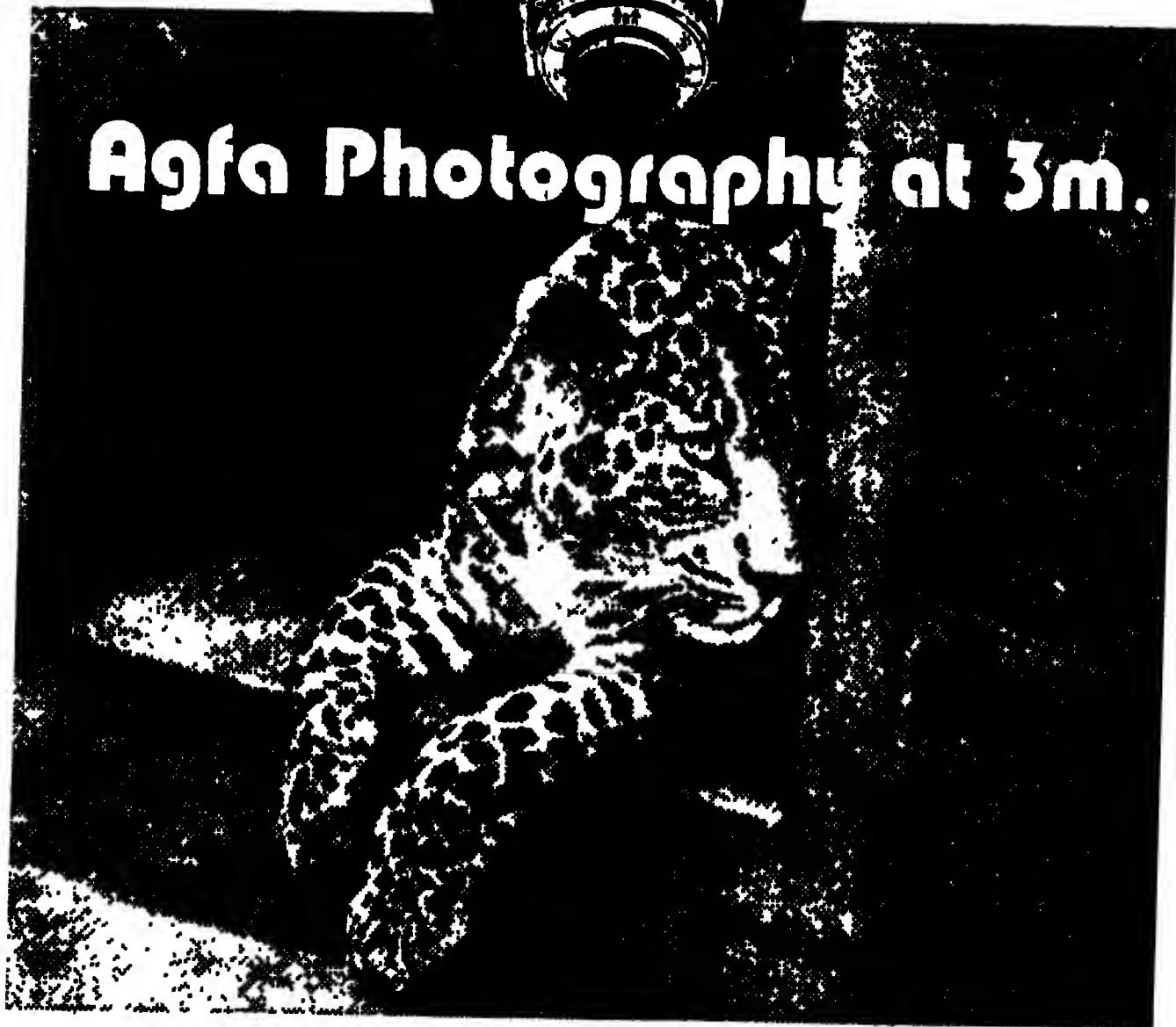




# A Capital Show



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### A CAPITAL SHOW

The 1982 Asiad hosted by India showed certain signs of turning out into one of the most impressive of sports extravaganzas with perfect co-ordination providing the base for the smooth running MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI, ARJIT SEN, DAVID McMAHON, SUBHASH SARCAR report from Delhi on the proceedings Photographs by NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA

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Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sarcar  
Correspondents Bombay Harish Munnari  
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## Letters to the Editor

### Future dark

MY opinions regarding the coming series between India and Pakistan are as under. The team has the worst combination in Test history, even worse than the one we formed to play England in the summer of 1982. None of the spinners that India is taking to Pakistan can be termed a match winning one like Chandrasekhar. The pace attack also is completely dependant on Kapil Dev while Madan Lal is there only to complete the formality of the opening attack.

India will lose the series by a margin of two Tests or three. Congratulations to Imran Khan and company for a victory in advance.

I hope that Gavaskar does not tour the West Indies due to frictions within the team. The future of Indian cricket is dark.

NARESH SACHDEVA,  
New Police Line

### Why Malhotra was axed

THE following are the reasons why Vishwanath was included and Ashok Malhotra excluded from the Indian squad to tour Pakistan.

Vishwanath is Gavaskar's brother-in-law. Malhotra is not.

Vishwanath scored a century on debut in 1969 and tackled the fiery bowling of Roberts and company in 1974-75 bravely. Hence, according to the 'wise' Indian selectors he is assured of his place in the side till 1990, regardless of his performances at present.

Vishwanath's 'magnificent' innings of nine and three in the Test against Sri Lanka were considered far superior to Malhotra's innings of 67 and 116 for the Rest of India against Delhi.

Vishwanath's fantastic 'late cut' in the above

mentioned Test ensures his place in the Indian team for the next 25 years.

Malhotra's marvellous innings of 116 for the Rest of India against Delhi was considered 'too reckless' by the selectors. A more 'mature' batsman like Vishwanath would have been cautious and would not have tried to chase a steep and seemingly impossible target of 421.

One also wonders how the selectors got the guts to drop Suru Nayak even though Gavaskar was retained as the captain. Strange!

AJAY SREEKANTH,  
Madras

### Not 'Lack of funds'

THIS is with reference to the article published in your issue dated 13 October 1982 on page 36. The main reason for not receiving sufficient entries for the Bhagubhai Khichadia Memorial Cricket Tournament was not 'Lack of funds' as mentioned because the grounds are made available free of charge to the participating teams. The tournament committee also provides balls free of cost and the main financial burden is borne by it. The main reason seems to be the lack of interest shown by the Principals and the sports teachers of the schools. I hope that they only realise that they are depriving the youngsters to show their merits at an early age.

S K TALWAR,  
Bombay

### Rightly pointed out

READER Rao of Jamshedpur has rightly pointed out regarding the partiality in the selection of players for the East Zone side in the 27 October issue. Not even that, even the selectors who choose the East Zone side are all from Bengal.

JAGDISH PATRA,  
Matkumbeda

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## Not Test class

THE Sri Lankans may have provided us with some entertaining cricket in the Madras Test but there can be no denying the fact that apart from fielding they are not a Test class side. Their batsmen admittedly scored a fair packet of runs but one feels that the Lankans tended to score a little too quickly. A first-day score of 311 is great going but does not conform to the needs of Test cricket. West Indies may get away with brisk scoring because they have certain depth in their batting and a bowling attack to back them up. Sri Lanka's batting is just Dias and Mendis and their bowling is merely club class.

Sri Lanka cricketers must realise that entertainment is just not the whole point of Test cricket. The willingness to play slow but consistent cricket and the ability to stay at the wicket and build an innings will stand them in

good stead in the long run.  
**DEEPAK GOIL,**  
Bangalore.

## Statistics

THE first Test against Pakistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore will be India's 200th. In addition, Gavaskar required 43 runs for his 7000 in Test cricket, Vishwanath just 54 for his 6000, Venkateshwar 36 for his 3000 and Kapil Dev 179 for his 2000. Let us wish Sunny and his men all success.

**GOPAN KRISHAN,**  
Trivandrum

THE answer to Manik Pal's question in the issue of 3 November was answered incorrectly. Sunil Gavaskar has scored eight ducks in Tests and not seven as mentioned. The break-up is given as follows:

Four versus England (1971, 72-73, 74 and 76-77)

Two versus the West Indies (1974-75, 78-79)

Two versus Australia (1977-78, 81-82)

**SUDHANU DESHPANDE,**  
Bombay

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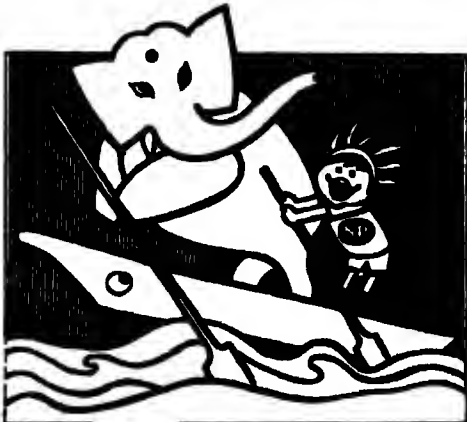
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# A Capital Show

MANSUR ALI KHAN PATAUDI reports on the initial stages of the Ninth Asiad

SO far so good, at least on the surface, the opening days of the Asian Games have proceeded smoothly and efficiently, with only minor hitches and the rare protest which has been settled amicably.

For those watching it has become abundantly clear that India is not going to win many medals, but for perhaps the first time, this aspect of Indian sports is being witnessed at first hand by the leaders of this nation.

The marked difference in the standard of many disciplines, many of which India has been practising for decades, should at last convince all that these years have been spent rather fruitlessly, and where other nations have progressed through sensible recruitment, application and the use of modern equipment, India has remained static and in some games even regressed.

This in case anybody is interested is the plain truth, no matter how much money has been spent on institutions to train and encourage sportsmen, and whatever claims of progress that have been made by the various federations.

The fact remains that every country except India, specialises in a few events and does not dissipate its energy in resources in 20 different channels and till India is prepared to adopt this policy, she is not going to have any consistent impact internationally.

If some angles to the Asian Games are gloomy, there is fortunately compensation elsewhere, and a major delight is Doordarshan going into colour, and the quality of its coverage.

Whilst there is yet no match for BBC, it is remarkable, that in spite of a lack of experience in covering diverse sports activities, the cameramen have shown a fair sense of anticipation, and the lack of professionalism in the link commentators has not deterred them from presenting themselves and their information with a sense of relaxed ease and informality.

Naresh Kumar is easily the best dressed, Jaishintha the worse made up and thank heavens Ashis Ray has decided to have a haircut. Nevertheless, what these three have in common with their colleagues Shyam Verma and Kinny Lal is that they all speak the language with felicity and this is at least soothing to the ear.

Sad to say, the same cannot be said for all the commentators in the field, some of whom fail to differentiate between radio and television commentary and carry on an endless chatter, when the identification of the competitor and a few salient remarks about the performance is more than sufficient for a television audience.

One chap had the right idea when he said, "Let me say as little as

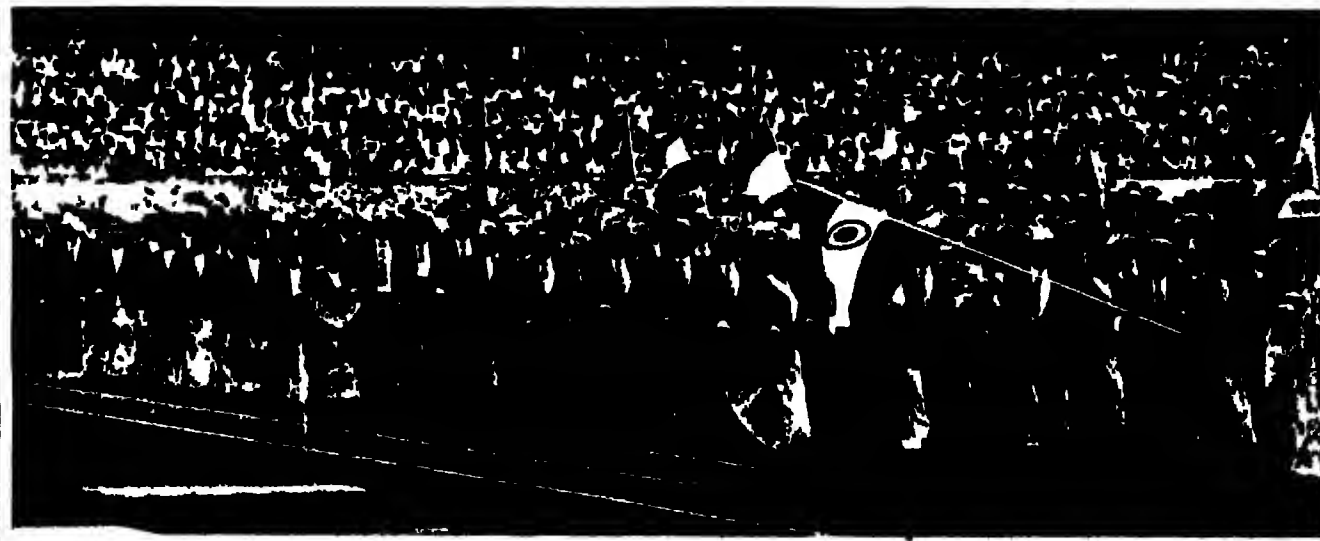
possible." One wishes that a few others would be similarly inclined. One would also like interviews with some of the distinguished visitors to be less inane and a pointless waste of time.

If a senior coach or gold medallist is to be asked questions, at least the interviewer should have some knowledge of the person's background and achievement, his method of training and his attitude in general.

Interviews even if they are short should invite constructive remarks, suggestions, praise or criticism, and not polite generalities which is all that one has got so far.

Yet the overall impression has been pleasantly effective and a vast improvement on some of the coverage dished out by Doordarshan in the preceding years, and obviously there is some system to read the feedback because there is improvement every day. At this rate even if the Indian competitors are going to be disappointing the Games may well deserve a few.

Amateurs can rarely compete with professionals. Indian commentators fall in the former category and in spite of this drawback are giving, in the main, an acceptable picture of the proceedings. One can expect no more but I for one wish some of them would be less garrulous and let the viewer make his own assessment, but I also fear I may be in the minority.







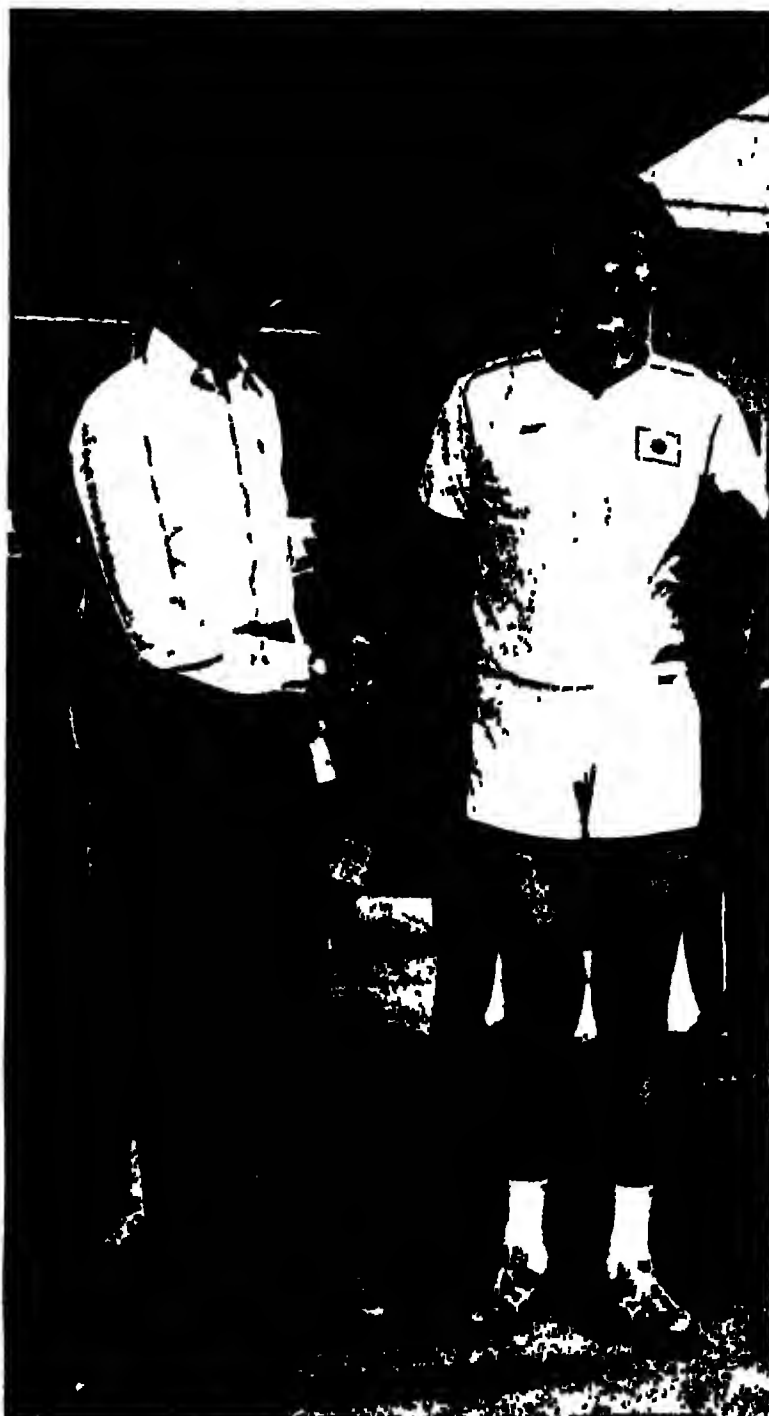
ASIAN GAMES 1990 DELHI

# The Ninth Asiad in Pictures

Photographs by NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



*Mongolia's standard bearer at the opening ceremony*



*Former Indian basketballer Srivastava meets his match*



*Kuwait footballers going through a workout at the Asiad Village*



*The flag-hoisting ceremony at the Village*



*Appu soars aloft at the opening ceremony*



The controversial Iranians in wheelchairs cheer their compatriots



No lady here A male leads the Iranians into the stadium



# SOCCER



IX ASIAN GAMES 1982 DELHI

**T**HE first three days of the Asiad soccer tournament brought few surprises and very little of good football. But it is too early yet for despair. Maybe, as the tournament progresses, the leading teams will settle down and, better football will result.

Let us start with the champions, South and North Korea—South first because they were the better side although they failed to score in the final in Bangkok. Till the time of going to Press, they had played just one match, won, but did not impress. There were too many loopholes in the team. They were lucky the Yemenis did not have the firepower to expose them more. Comprising several players who did duty for the country in Calcutta for the Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup, South Korea did not exhibit the kind of cohesion that became their hallmark in that tournament. North Korea, too, had too little opposition to merit proper evaluation. They had met and beaten Thailand, but were held to a draw by Syria. Their discipline could probably see them in good light against Saudi Arabia, but their footballing skills—at the highest level is still suspect.

Saudi Arabia is a team to watch. They have a Brazilian coach and they

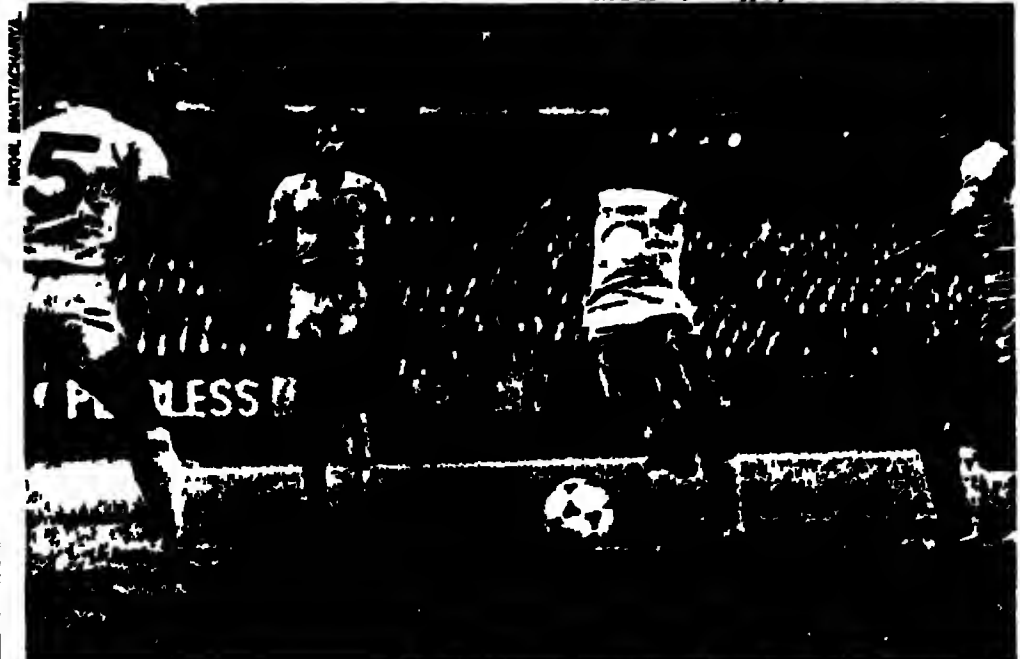
play like the Brazilians. But while none of them have been able to match the play of Zico and company, they certainly have imbibed another typically Brazilian characteristic. They are equally erratic when it came to the completion of a move towards goal. Iran and Kuwait also did not live up to expectations in the initial match-

China and Iraq are the other principal contenders for the gold. While the former, traditionally late starters, were yet to get their touch, Iraq started with a bang, pulverising a none-too-dim witted Burma line-up.

Hosts India, however, were the most disappointing in their first two encounters. One will have to

ly he was tackle-shy. But which of the forwards did any tackling? At least Manash is a goal-hungry forward. The others are not. And Shabbir Ali is nothing less than a joke.

What India does in the quarter-finals is anybody's guess, but it would be interesting to watch the progress of the tough tackling Syrians and the



Praoun Banerjee, who scored both of India's goals against Bangladesh, weaves his way past the opposing defenders.

es Kuwait, without several of their regulars in the World Cup squad did not show the pace and the penetration in attack which had given them a berth in the World Cup finals, while Iran were well and truly outmanoeuvred by the wily Japanese.

keep on guessing to find out what effect the 18-month training had on the players. There was no cohesion and the team appeared much slower than most others. There is no forward line worth the name and one feels it was idiotic to drop Manash Bhattacharjee. Apparent-

springly Japanese. These have emerged as the two dark horses of this competition. Even if they do not make it to the last eight, their exploits will be remembered. Also, the fact that superior tactics can help an inferior team to win matches.



# POWER

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**ASIAD '82 reporting by ARIJIT SEN, SUBHASH SARCAR and  
DAVID MCMAHON. Photography by NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA**

## FOOTBALL

### GROUP A

#### Saudi Arabia vs Thailand

**D**ESPITE their oil money, foreign coaches and intensive training, Saudi Arabia did not open on too promising a note when they met sprightly Thailand. In fact, if Thailand had had even one good striker, they would not have lost the match.

Showing early promise, the Saudis kept the Thais on the defensive in the first session at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The livewire of the side, left flankman Adel Abdulrahman Ismail initiated several raids with his speed. He was instrumental in the only goal of the match, after fullback Nawaf Al-Khamis had passed to him, he dodged two defenders and slipped the ball to Abdulrahman Al-Kaht who slammed it into the roof of the net. This was in the 43rd minute and marked the culmination of the Saudi effort. In the second half, it was almost totally Thailand. They switched substitute Suttatun for ward and brought back Chutavanch to the midfield. But their finish was bad and the Saudi defence was geared for the onslaught.

#### DPR Korea vs Syria

**N**ORTH KOREA, who were joint holders in a blank encounter with their southern counterparts in Bangkok four years ago, did not impress in their first outing in this group, at the Ambedkar Stadium. Although they had midfield control, they could do no more than salvage one point from unfancied Syria.

The Koreans took the lead in the 21st minute, when Chang Bong Yong converted a penalty. This came when Syrian goalkeeper charged up to hold Kim Gwang Ho in the penalty area.

The Syrians, relying more on tough tackles, managed to score sensationally in the last minute of play. Speedy left flankman Rahed Khalil latched on to a lob into the penalty area, swiftly filiped the ball from the left to his right foot and slammed in past an unprepared Korean custodian Kim Gang Il.

#### DPR Korea Vs Thailand

**A**FTER their shock draw with Syria, the North Koreans took stock of the Thai challenge and over-



*Alok Mukherjee displays his skill versus Bangladesh*

came them with sheer speed and ball control to win 3-0—a tally that could have been much higher had their forwards and linkmen been a little more on target. It was left to striker Man Hyong Il to record a hat-trick.

As it is, the Thais, without a point after they lost by a solitary goal to Saudi Arabia in their first match, were hard put to contain the speedy Koreans. To make matters worse, their forwards muffed the two chances that came their way by shooting hastily.

The Koreans began strongly and soon the Thais had seven men in their penalty area. Realising that the opposition was slower, the Koreans began to apply more pressure. But the crowded defence and erratic shooting restricted their first-half score to just one goal. In the second, however, they were a little more successful, netting twice.

#### Saudi Arabia vs Syria

**T**HE only qualification that the Syrians seem to have is muscle power. They tried these body tactics quite successfully with the North Koreans and once again it was evi-

dent against the Saudis. Here too, they managed to end the day on a 1-1 note, but this placed the Saudis in a better position. With this match, they have three points—the same as DPR Korea—and Syria were placed in the unenviable position of having to beat Thailand by a wide margin and hoping that their would a clear decision in the DPR Korea-Saudi Arabia tie.

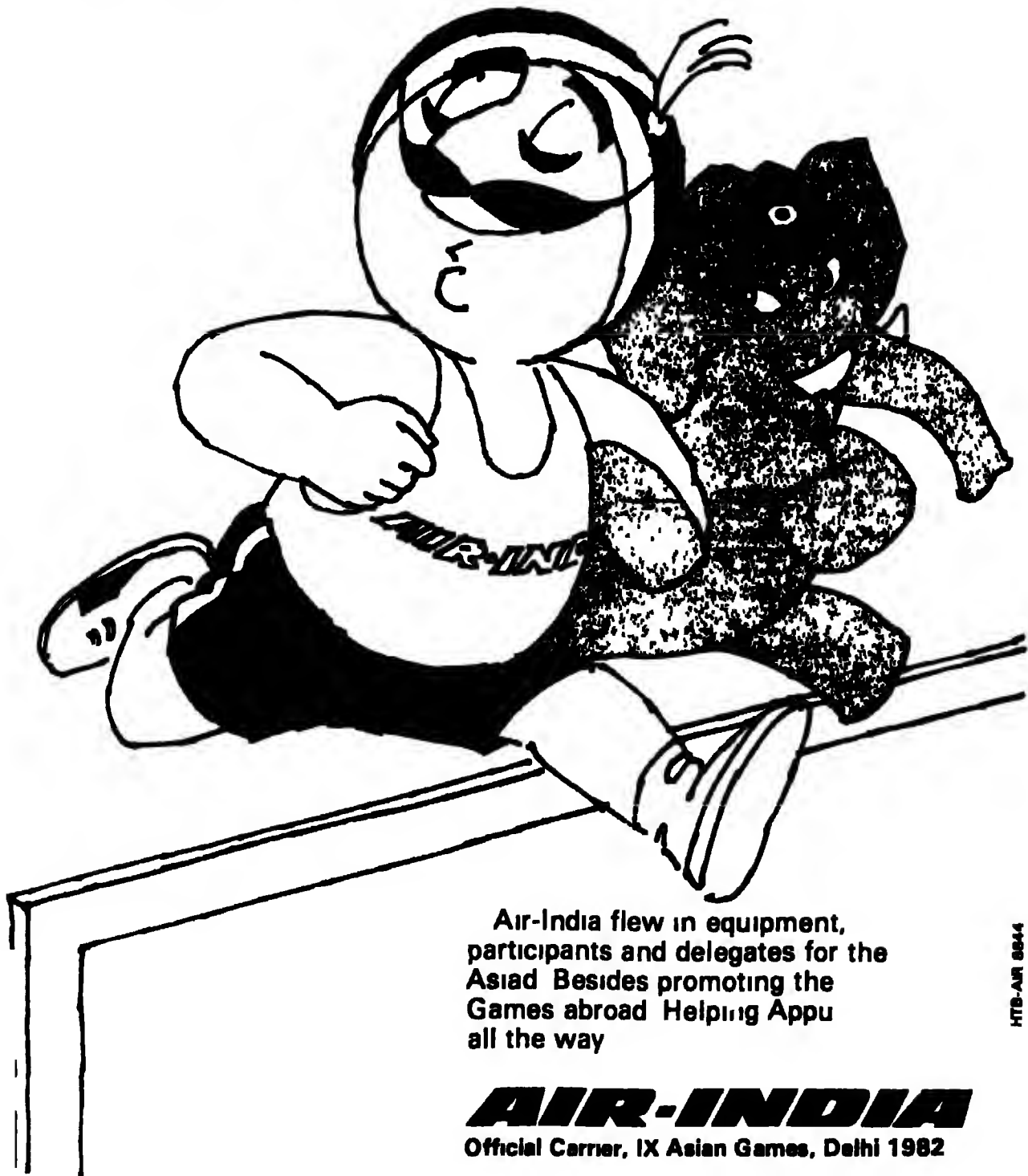
The Saudis did not show the cohesion that dazzled Thailand earlier. Instead, their defence cracked under pressure and thus allowed Syria to take the lead. Marwan Medarat weaved his way into the penalty area outwitted two defenders and beat the goalkeeper with ease. But early in the second session, Majed Mohammad drew the defenders to him before flicking the ball to the "free" Abdul Rahman, who shot in with aplomb.

### GROUP B

#### Iraq vs Burma

**I**RAQ began their campaign for the soccer gold on a very promising note when they trounced Burma 4-0.

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This is not to suggest that Burma, who have been in the wilderness for almost ten years, were a pushover. The fact was that the Iraqis were just too good. They took control of the game from the start and never let up on the pressure. Try what they could, the Burmese just could not cope with the marauding attackers.

Natig Hashim Awne started the goal spree. He was followed by Husain Mohammad who switched the ball from one foot to the other before swinging the ball beyond the reach of the Burmese custodian. The third goal came soon after resumption, through Ali Shihab and Hares Hassan completed the tally when a scorching drive came off the goalkeeper's hands.

#### Kuwait vs Nepal

**H**AD it not been for goalkeeper Rajwan Bist—who recalled the exploits of Bishnu Gopal Shrestha in the sixties—Nepal would have got a much more severe drubbing than the 3-1 result. But the Kuwaitis, without seven of their World Cup stars, could not really get a stranglehold on the proceedings as was expected. The Nepalese fought on equal terms for much of the first half and could have scored first had not D S Gurung faltered after eluding the goalkeeper.

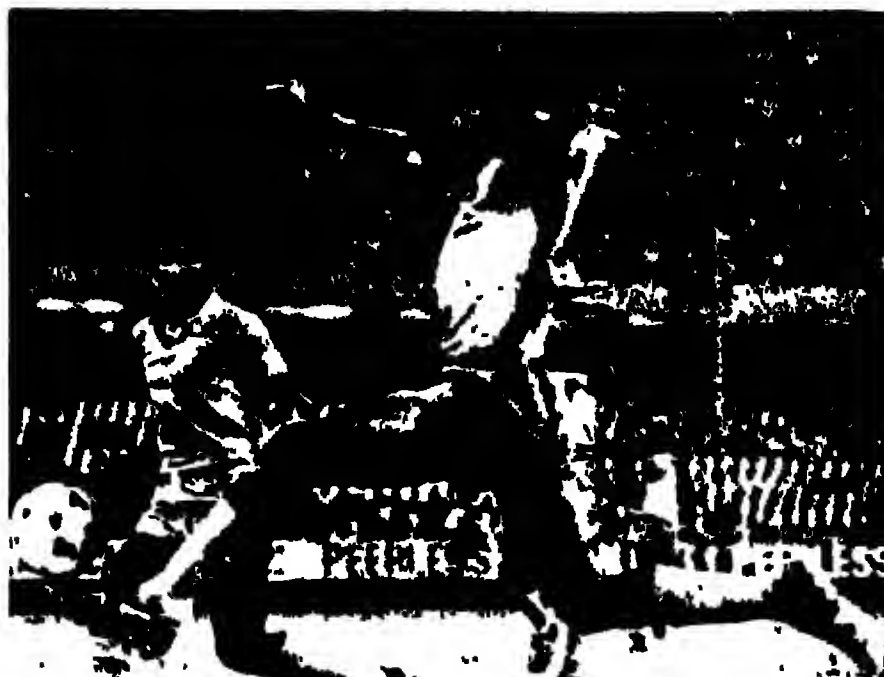
Almost immediately after the breather, Kuwait went ahead through Abdulla blooshy. This was followed by a goal from Yousaf Soayed. The Kuwaiti tally was completed by Ambar Saed. But late in the game, Nepal won the hearts of the crowd who changed from banter to encouragement after seeing the Nepalese resistance—by lowering the margin through Y B Gale.

### GROUP C

#### India vs Bangladesh

**A**FTER almost two years of practice and constant criticism the Indians took the field against an unfancied Bangladesh—only to disappoint all over again. They managed to win 2-0, but the victory did not bring much solace to the team's supporters.

There was no cohesion among the players and the forward line was a disaster. Shabbir Ali was a clown who ran about much to the entertainment of the crowd, but not to that of his teammates. Both, Bidesh Bose and C B Thapa, were colorless versions of themselves. If it weren't for Prasun Banerjee, the evening would have ended in near-disaster for India. The game began with the Bangladeshis matching the Indians in bungling football, but they succeeded in having as much of the exchanges as the hosts. They came close to scoring on one occasion. Bhaskar Ganguly was shaky in goal, while Farmer was a weak link in defence.



C B Thapa in full flight against Bangladesh

Prasun Banerjee scored one goal in each half in identical fashion. He lobbed the ball over the custodian and each time it dipped into the net. A better goalkeeper could have saved both efforts.

#### India vs Malaysia

**I**NDIA repeated their tale that they had begun with Bangladesh, against Malaysia, although they were a shade better in their overall display. The Malaysians were a young lot—average age 23—and several of their players had not gone beyond Merdeka. Even so, they were plucky in defeat.

The Indians made two changes. Harjinder Singh came in place Prasanto Banerjee and Biswajit Bhat tacheerjee took over from C B Thapa. But there was no difference to the attacking power. In fact, if Kartick Sett—who came in for Biswajeet Bhattacharjee in the second session—had not found the target after Bidesh's flagkick, saw Prasanto Banerjee, who came in for Harjinder in the first session, take a shot which was deflected, India could well have been in the dumps.

#### China Vs. Bangladesh

**B**ANGLADESH improved considerably by the time they encountered China. Although they along with Malaysia, are out of the reckoning for a quarter-final berth, they did occasionally exhibit good football. China, on the other hand, seemed to be content to win by the shortest of margins, as long as they collected full points.

#### China vs Malaysia

**A**LTHOUGH they came with much promise—especially after their showing in the first Jawaharlal

Nehru Gold Cup Tournament in Calcutta—China did not impress in their first match. They made heavy weather in beating a disheartened Malaysian outfit which was without two of its regular stars and which included three players from the junior ranks who had been called up at short notice to do duty in senior company.

The Chhatrasal Stadium in Model Town had a sprinkling of spectators, but they did not go home happy with a 1-0 result. Midfielder Zhu Shu Sheng passed the ball to the overlapping stopperback Lin Cheng. The latter headed past the Malaysian custodian. This was in the 21st minute of play.

The Malaysians, of course, adopted defensive tactics from the start, but this was no excuse for the Chinese to nullify the chances that came their way.

### GROUP D

#### Japan Vs Iran

Whether it was the trouble back home or just lack of class, one will never know, but the fact was that Japan—a team which has no international pretensions—beat them 1-0 and inched towards a quarter-final berth. The Japanese could have increased the margin if they had taken their second half chances.

Japan began by playing defensive soccer, allowing the Iranians to come up to the penalty area, but never letting them get a clear look at the goal.

#### South Korea Vs South Yemen

Joint champions at the last Asian Games, South Korea did not impress in their first outing. Although they beat South Yemen 3-0, they did not look like the team which swept all opposition—bar one—in Bangkok four years ago.

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MSB-AWH-14 A/82

# HOCKEY

**N**OW that both India and Pakistan have each played two matches, we have a chance to compare their performances on the field. Neither team has really turned in an impressive performance as yet and in fact the half lines of both India and Pakistan have done hardly anything of note.

Both centre halves—Carvalho for India and Rashid for Pakistan—have been lacking the qualities of a person in that position. Neither has done anything of any real consequence. The same can be said of the half lines of both sides, while the goalkeepers have not been tested yet. In Qasim Zia, Pakistan have a better full back but one hopes that the Indian defence will rise to the occasion when the pressure is on.

In Pakistan's first match of the Asiad, they confined their play mainly to the left wing and it was patently clear that all their attacks developed down the left. This imbalance obviously meant that Pakistan had to do some drastic rethinking with regard to their strategy.

In Pakistan's first match, Hanif, Samiullah and Hassan Sardar played the main role while in complete contrast Manzoor Jr. was a mere passenger. Also in this game, against China, Kalimullah seemed to lose all interest in the proceedings. On that day the mercurial Hanif truly struck a purple patch and everything seemed to be going right for him, but this was not to be in his side's next encounter, against South Korea. One cannot be too sure if the style of play in this game was the result of a change in dressing room strategy, but it was a complete reversal of roles.

All said and done, though, at this stage of the tournament it must be stressed that the Pakistani half line

## GURBUX SINGH

is still lacking that special punch that it will need to carry it past the stiffer challenges. It was all too evident that the Pakistani defence—the much vaunted line—



could be breached. The fact that this was done—and done repeatedly and in style—by the Koreans, who can by no stretch of imagination be called world class, must have proved worrying to the Pakistanis.

It is going to be interesting to see how the Japanese forwards per-

form against the Pakistani defence. The Japanese have a nippy forward line, particularly their inside right and centre forward. Much is going to depend on their ability to get past the Pakistanis and take pot shots at the goal. Unless they do this, they do not have any hopes.

In India's second game, against Malaysia, the former seemed to be completely at sixes and sevens in the first half. Once Malaysia took the lead and missed another sitter, this seemed to shock the Indian side into action. It was really a question of shock therapy, so to speak.

Thereafter, a Malaysian collapse was always on the cards and the five goals that India put in did not really come as any surprise. In the first half, the Malaysians were able to score largely because of lapses in the Indian defence and also inertia on the part of the forward line.

Our two inside forwards, Merwyn and Shahid were unable to get going. This apart, they were not getting any help from their half line. Thus, the complete domination on the part of the Malaysian team was not at all surprising.

Ultimately, it was the introduction of Syed Ali that altered the entire tempo of the game and the Indian side began to look rejuvenated with Jagdeep moving over to inside right and Shahid moving in as centre forward. Both wingers, Zafar and Charanjit, centred well but we will have to improve our halfline play if we are going to keep the Pakistani forwards in check.



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## HOCKEY

**T**HE question uppermost in the minds of hockey fans is Will India be able to regain pride of place in Asia? Thus, it was not surprising that there was almost a handsome crowd at the National Stadium on the morning of 20 November to see the hosts take on lowly Hong Kong in their Pool 'B' encounter. There was nothing at stake, for the result of the match itself was a foregone conclusion. What was on trial was India's competence.

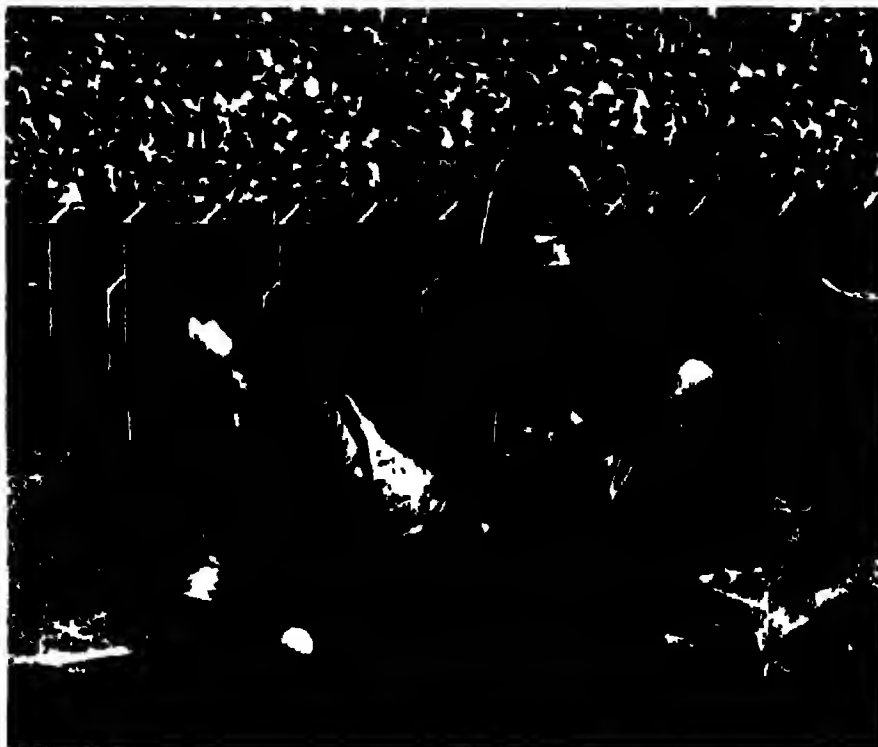
Asian supremacy—represented by India and Pakistan—had taken a severe jolt at the Amsterdam Champions Cup, when the European teams played havoc to take pride of place. However, one saving grace at Amsterdam was the fact that India came from behind to beat Pakistan 5-4. This should help psyche our players in their quest for the Gold here in Delhi.

The India-Hong Kong match was literally a case of slaughter of the innocents. The ten-goal victory may not quite have satisfied the purists and the armchair critics, but there were good omens for those who care to watch. India could have increased the margin of victory, but excessive dribbling by Mohammed Shahid cost us a higher tally. The inside right tended to hold on to the ball for too long, especially in front of the goalmouth and the Hong Kong defenders were not slow to realise this.

Although India started with a bang, scoring their first goal through a penalty corner by Rajinder Singh (sr) in the first minute, they only struck form in the eighteenth minute. The inner trio of Merwyn Fernandes, Jagdeep and Shahid, who made repeated forays into the rival territory, were unable to strike home initially but midway through the first half they found the going more to their liking.

In one such move, Jagdeep was thwarted by defender Parmar, resulting in a stroke which Zafar converted with ease. But he was later to shoot wide off the goalmouth on yet another penalty stroke. Against Hong Kong, this did not matter, but if this should be repeated later when the weaker teams have been weeded out, it could prove dangerous, if not disastrous.

Shahid soon found his touch and his field goal bore the stamp of brilliance. With two successive goals to his credit and a penalty stroke coming India's way, Zafar could well have given him a chance to complete a hat-trick but the Indian captain took the stroke instead. It is interesting, in retrospect, to note that both Shahid and Zafar were on the brink of hat-tricks at different stages of the



*Jagdeep Singh and the Hong Kong goalkeeper slide for possession of the ball*

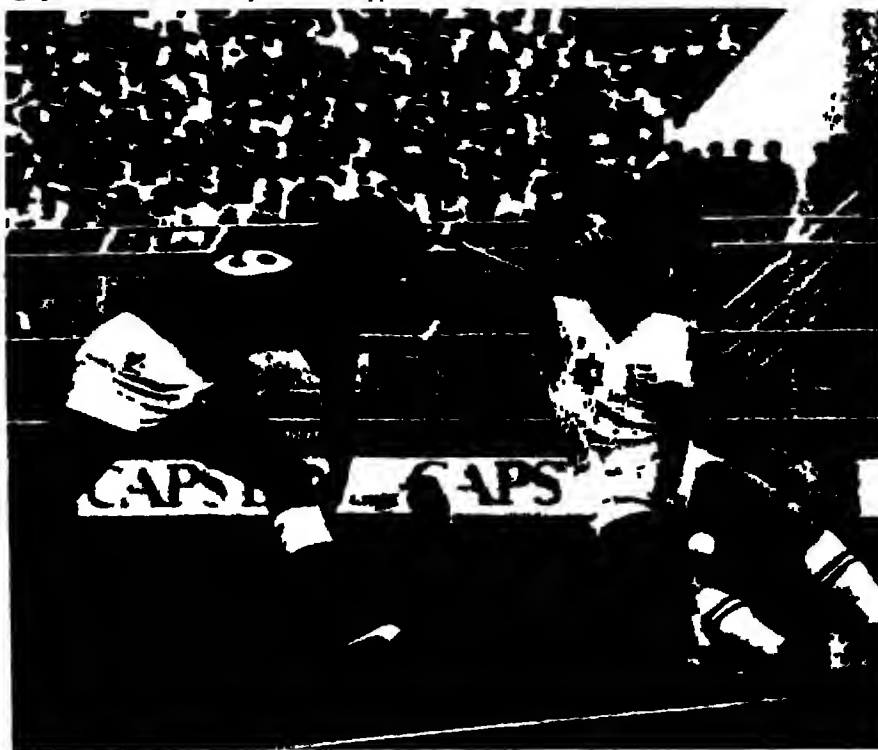
match, while Syed Ali was the only player to make it three in a row.

It was strange to see Shahid being brought off the field just as he seemed to be getting into his rhythm. One thought that Jagdeep should have been replaced instead. But the wisdom of Balbir's move soon became apparent when Syed Ali moved through the rival defence like the proverbial knife through butter. It was obviously his

greater experience at the international level. What was even more gratifying about Syed's hat-trick was the fact that all three were field goals, perhaps the first of its kind in recent years.

From the Hong Kong side, left winger Nawab Khan Ali and goalkeeper Anthony were a cut above the rest. Ali lacked support from the rest of the forward line, but even then he managed to penetrate

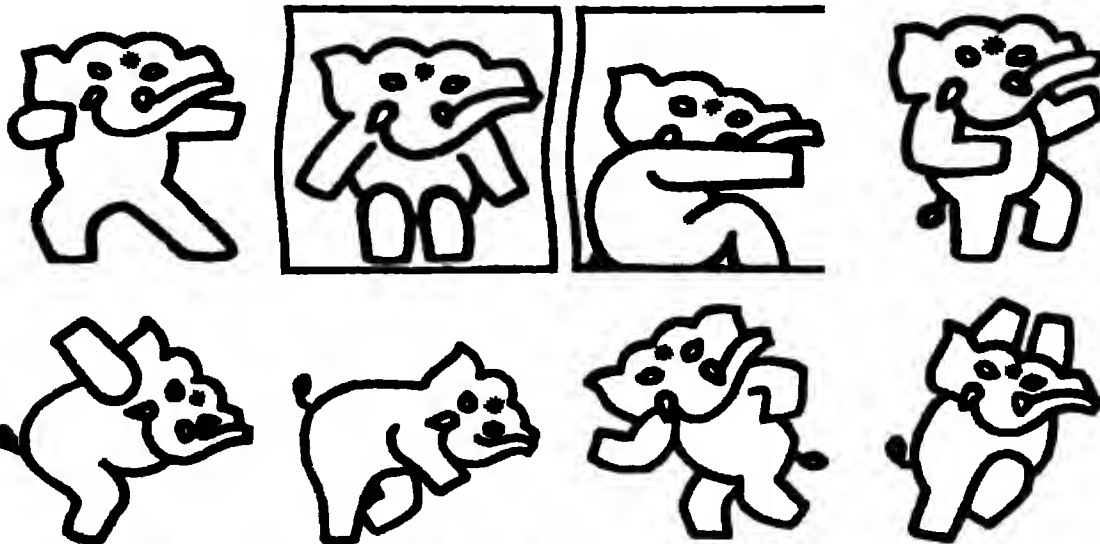
*Pakistan's Hassan Sardar proves unstoppable versus China*



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Manzoor Jr makes a valiant but futile attempt to get past the Chinese goalkeeper

the Indian defence although this was never a threat of any magnitude since there was no one to bark him up. On one occasion he looked like scoring, but a timely interception by Rajinder warded off the danger. Goalkeeper Anthony was a very fast mover and showed good anticipation on occasions but he was constantly harried and kept under pressure as the chinks in the Hong Kong defence were exposed continuously. From the Indian point of view, there was another cheering note when goalkeeper Negi saved a penalty stroke, the only one awarded to Hong Kong. Negi will have to keep up the good work if India hope to finish on top.

**J**APAN opened their campaign with a comprehensive 6-2 victory over South Korea. Though the Japanese took only a solitary goal led in the first half, the Koreans put up a gallant fight. But a sudden spurt by the Japanese after the first half proved too much for the Koreans to cope with and their defence began showing signs of exhaustion.

In Koji Takamori and Katsu Hito Numa, Japan possess two forwards with a high degree of stick skill. The stickwork they displayed that day could perhaps have earned them a place in an Indian team and they thrilled the holiday crowd with their dexterity. Takamori seemed to be everywhere at the same time and eventually ended up scoring four of his side's goals, opening his account with a scorching shot off a centre from the left.

Asian newcomers Oman sprang a surprise when they overcame Bangladesh by the odd goal in three in their Pool 'B' match. But Bangladesh should not have lost this match. Had they laid more stress on field goals and sharpened their attack, the story could well have been reversed. The only goal they scored came through a penalty stroke.

**I**N one of the inconsequential Pool B matches, Hong Kong beat Oman 4-2. It was a lacklustre match that was poorly attended, but Hong Kong showed that they were capable of reorganising themselves after their 10-0 drubbing at the hands of India.

Sure enough, from the very start of the game, Hong Kong held sway and dominated most of the exchanges. The pivot of the attack in this case was Amarjeet Singh who completed a hat-trick on the stroke of half time. Hong Kong's fourth and final goal came through the speedy Nawab Khan Ali, who converted a penalty corner. But Oman were not completely disgraced, as they struck home twice in a thirteen-minute span.

Pakistan had a field day against South Korea and seemed fired by the urge to prove that they were not far behind India when it came to scoring goals. As the hosts had done two days previously against Hong Kong, Pakistan also notched up ten goals but it was a scrappy match.

The Koreans refused to be cowed down and the fact that they earned three penalty corners besides carrying out a few sporadic raids into rival territory, proved that they were far from overawed by the opposition. The World Cup champions began their scoring spree five minutes after the start and then continued scoring at more or less regular intervals. This necessitated a rather unusual substitution by the Korean coach, who replaced the goalkeeper, perhaps deciding that he had taken enough of a battering. Mun Doo Hwan, the reserved goalkeeper, played a brave game, but the fact that Pakistan's scoring rate slowed down after half time was due to the fact that their forwards slackened off, rather than any brilliance on Hwan's part.

Manzoor Jr finished the match with four goals but Pakistan's forward line did not show their real power.

Hosts India received a first half jolt when they allowed Malaysia to score first through the omnipresent Colin Stra Maria. However, instead of going into the second half with a bare 1-0 lead, Malaysia could have had another goal. A lapse by Topno saw a Malaysian forward pounce on the ball, but Romeo James rushed out to foil what could have been a potentially dangerous situation. It was a classic one on one encounter, but James proved with his skilful tackle that he has guts and talent in equal proportions.

India lacked coordination in the first half and failed to enter the striking circle even once in the first 35 minutes of play. They went into the second half still down by a goal, in a situation that was strangely reminiscent of the opening fixture of the Bombay World Cup earlier this year.

But India were far from finished. Syed Ali was brought in for Merwyn Fernandes and Jagdeep moved over to the position of inside right. Zafar was consistently and accurately fed by the halves and he initiated several swift forays down the left flank.

India had a lot of hard work to do in order to make up for the fact that they wasted two penalty corners, when an undercut and a feeble shot nullified the advantage. Had it been Rajinder Singh in place of Vineet Kumar the chances for the home team would have been brighter.

The equaliser came through Zafar Iqbal, who converted a penalty stroke and he also gave India the lead with a snappy, accurate rebound off a penalty corner. The third came through Shahid and by this time the Malaysians were rocking on their heels and their hitherto tight defence was beginning to crack.

Although the Malaysians forced two penalty corners, they were incapable of converting them. Before India rounded off the score at 5-1, the only incident of note was a green card for Somaiya.

## 67 wins in a row!

Edwin Corley Moses is the world 400 metres hurdles champion. In the 1976 Olympics, he broke all Olympic and world records, timing 47.64 seconds. Four years later he bettered his own record clocking 47.13 seconds. It was his 67th straight victory in that event. And is the present world record.



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# SNIPSETS

**A**LTHOUGH the organisers were claiming well in advance that tickets were sold out, this was far from the truth in most events. But one spectacle that nobody wanted to miss was the opening ceremony—especially in view of the fact that the cultural programme had been cut short by half.

Everyone was on the lookout for tickets for the opening ceremony, most of them for the free passes that were being handed out to the VIPs. Not surprisingly, therefore, security at the gates was tight. Certain Pressmen had to shuttle from one gate to another before they were finally allowed in, despite the fact that they were brandishing their invitations and their Press accreditation tags. But they were not the only ones having a rough time. Former Information and Broadcasting Minister, Mr V C Shukla, tried taking two guests through the gates but was not successful. The officer in charge quite rightly refused to allow them past and though Mr Shukla tried his level best to convince the former that everything was in order, the official stood his ground.

THE Indian and foreign journalists got along famously, despite the obvious language barrier in most cases. There was one Indian reporter, veteran of many an athletic meet, who got into a sign language conversation with a Chinese journalist two days before the Games got under way.

They met at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, where the foreigners had come to look around the stadium. The Indian asked his new-found friend what he thought of the Nehru Stadium but the latter had some difficulty in comprehending the question. Ultimately, when the message got through, the Chinese journalist suddenly beamed and giving a meaningful thumbs up

sign, used the only English word in his vocabulary "Beautiful," he beamed, "beautiful."

It was almost the same as an angler going fishing without a rod. There was this Afghan cyclist who arrived in New Delhi without—you guessed it—his cycle.

While there were side remarks from other competitors about him running the 100 metres in stead, not everyone took such an unsympathetic view of the problem. The organisers, rather than disappoint him, scoured the capital and even found him a bike. No wonder, they say the Games are well organised.

There were quite a few people who were all at sea at the start of the Games, but there was one particular group of journalists who faced a rather peculiar problem. They hoarded

the luxury buses earmarked for mediamen (a handy concept indeed) and asked their driver to take them to the Nehru Stadium. Five minutes into the drive, the worthy at the wheel turned around and asked who was directing him.

Directing him? Nobody was directing him, said the journalists, explaining that they were not from Delhi and did not know the way to the Stadium. Well, said the driver, that was going to pose a problem because he was from Maharashtra and did not know the way either.

THERE was another gem on the same lines. The Chinese badminton players went out for a practice session and found themselves in an even more awkward predicament as their driver was from Maharashtra, the guide from Karnataka and the

accompanying security officer from Bengal!

There was this astute observation made by one of the bystanders at the Nehru Stadium. The day after the Games were declared open, Saudi Arabia were to play Thailand in the second soccer match of the night. Said he "You don't need to look at a programme to find out when the Arabs are playing. Just look in the car park. If you find it full of Mercedes Benz Limousines, you'll know the answer."

THEN there was the case of the journalist who was enjoying an informal chat with an official from Bahrain. The latter was initially quite taken aback that he was being singled out for what he thought was an interview and so he waxed eloquent on a variety of subjects.

Towards the end of the conversation the journalist asked him what were Bahrain's prospects for the golds. "Oh, no problem," explained the official, misunderstanding the question completely. "We've got plenty of gold back home." When the puzzled scribe explained that he was talking about Asian Games medals and not nuggets, the official laughed heartily. "With our kind of gold, we don't even need silver let alone bronze."

The day before the Games began, the Japanese football team were going flat out at a practice session when, without warning, their privacy was invaded. At the opposite end of the field appeared another band of tracksuited footballers, the Saudis, led by their coach.

There was, of course, a great deal of gesticulating and shouting and ultimately the Japanese coach in a fit of exasperation, took out a piece of paper with his scheduled lining on it and showed it to the Saudi coach, who in turn took out his Net result. Both

Amilabh Bachhan at the opening ceremony



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# SNIPSETS

coaches found out that they had been giving timings that overlapped

Anyway, someone must have borne in mind the motto "Friendship fraternity forever" and so the whole thing was settled without any animosity. The Japanese used one half of the field and the Saudis the other. All was under control, when barely five minutes later, the Indian squad, led by P. K. Banerjee, jogged into view for their practice session.

WHO said that only the Indian hockey team consisted of players with the surname of Singh? Casual spectators at the India-Hong Kong hockey match at the National Stadium on the morning of 20 November might have been forgiven if they had asked which team was which. For, there were no less than five gentlemen with the surname of Singh who wore Hong Kong colours that day.

One of the first casualties of the Ninth Asian was a Pakistani, who injured his eye. On the way to one of the stadiums, he was in a window seat in the team bus which passed through overhanging foliage. The branches whipped through the window and caught the athlete in his left eye, necessitating a bandage that made him look like a war victim.

ON THE first day of the swimming finals, when the Japanese took five out of the six golds, there was a small group of Japanese children in the stands who were waving their national flag with a great deal of enthusiasm. But none of the swimmers seemed to notice them until Hiroko Nagasaki took the victory stand. As she turned to watch the Japanese flag being raised, she happened to notice the children, of whom the eldest could not have been more than eight or nine. She immediately responded by waving out to them and thereafter, almost all the

Japanese medal winners singled the kids out for special attention.

THERE was this little diversion at the administration centre of the Games Village on the third day. Two protocol officers, a girl and a boy, were sitting side by side on the luxurious sofas and spending a few idle moments in conversation before returning to their duties. They had barely been talking for more than five minutes when an elderly supervisor bustled up and called the girl aside. It was impossible to follow the conversation at such a distance but judging by the girl's reaction, it was not difficult to guess what was going on. The supervisor obviously took a very dim view of the fact that two members of the opposite sex could spend so much time in each other's company and she was admonishing the girl for her

behaviour. The girl, quite rightly, could not see anything wrong with what she was doing and made her point, but she was overruled in no uncertain terms. The supervisor then went on to berate the young man and then departed in high dudgeon. But as soon as her back was turned, the two were back to the sofas, to resume the conversation that had been so rudely interrupted.

THE coach of the Oman hockey team looked remarkably like an Indian and on investigation it turned out that he was indeed a resident of Bombay. Mr S. Naqvi, who is training the newcomers, is a product of the Netaji Subhash Institute of Sports and had an interesting observation to make on the entry of Oman into the hockey world.

Apparently, they only took to hockey two months

ago. And how did they turn to this sport? Simple, explained Mr Naqvi. Since they found that most of their neighbours were taking to football and importing coaches and equipment to ensure swift progress, Oman decided that there was little point in taking to the same game. They decided to follow the policy of adopting a game that was hardly popular with the neighbouring countries and so they settled for hockey instead. Simple as that. And a footnote: Of the two months' experience that they have, one month consisted of solid practice on astroturf in Karachi.

THE Asian Games Village kitchen has been dealing in quantities no less than 1,000 kilograms. A total of 1,00,000 kilos of foodstuff passes through its massive doors every day. No less than 20,000 eggs are consumed daily, while 10,000 litres of milk, 4,000 cups of flavoured yoghurt, 10,000 cups of ice creams and 10,000 apples are part of the course on an average day.

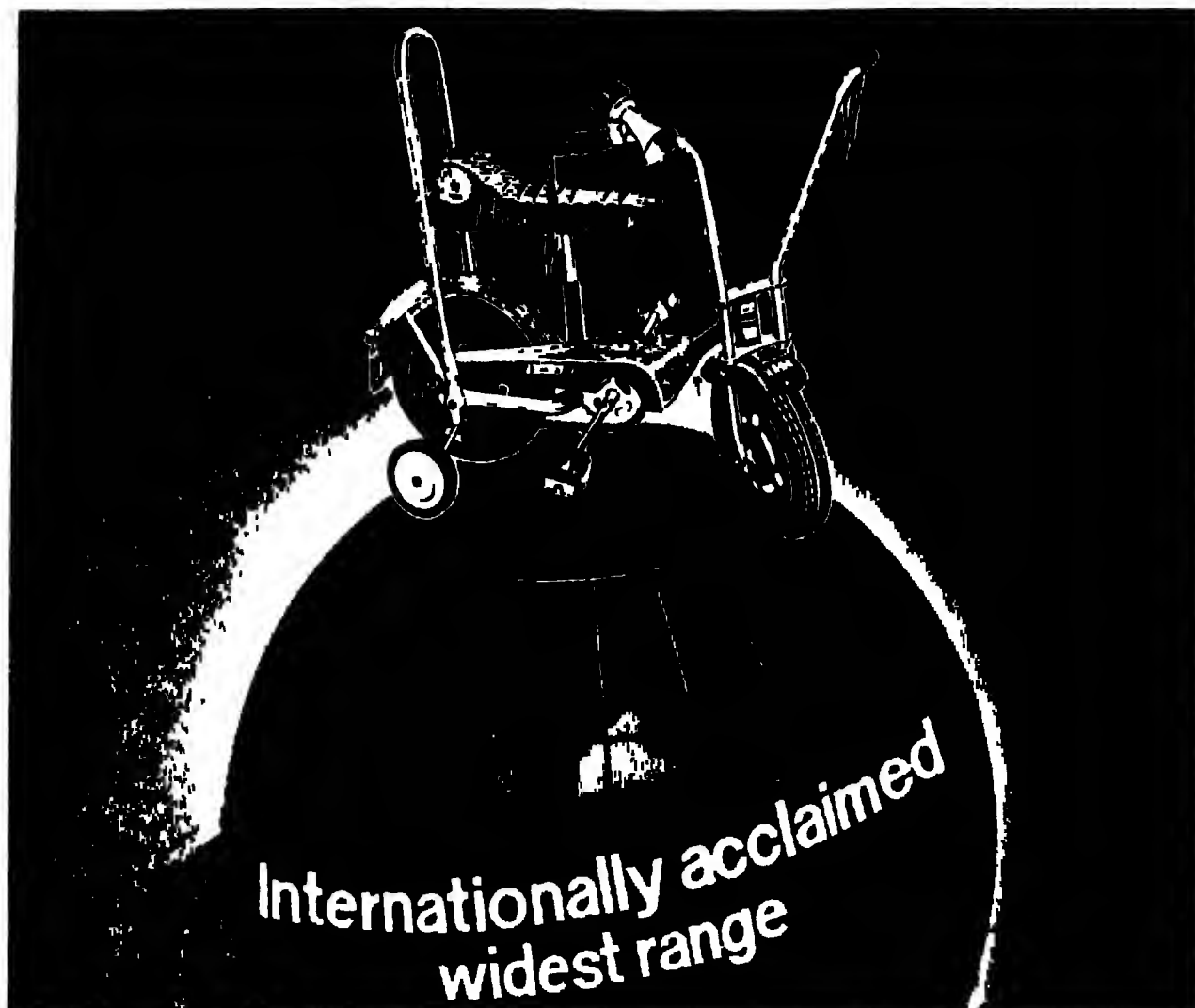
WHILE the Indian hockey team struggled against Malaysia in the first half of their match on 22 November, there were some VIPs in the stands who were following the game very intently. They were not politicians, neither were they officials. THE VIPs wore green tracksuits with white flashes down the side. They were the members of Pakistan's hockey team, who were studying their neighbours' tactics with rapt attention.

THE very fact that the Indian basketball team has two coaches—Sergei Storoilov and his assistant M. Rajan—is a recipe for trouble. Indeed, on the day the Indian men played the UAE, decisions taken by Storoilov were being openly countermanded by his assistant. Sign of the times?

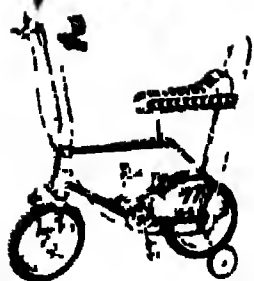
BY SUBHASH SARCAR  
AND DAVID MCMAHON

Chinese badminton player tries her hand at an unfamiliar sport





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## TABLE TENNIS

**A**S far as table tennis went, the most sensational match from the Indian point of view was the one that featured Manjit Dua and China's Cai Zhen Hua in the men's team events. Dua thrilled the crowd at the Hall of States as he seemed all set to give his opponent a run for his money, if not take the match itself. Dua took the first game at 22-20 and though it was whispered later that the Chinese player was not going all out, it is to the Indian's credit that he managed to extend his opponent and literally take him to the brink, so to speak. In the second game, Cai Zhen Hua levelled fortunes, prevailing 21-16 but the match was still far from over.

Dua gave it his all, for this sort of a chance would clearly not come his way again in a hurry. There was no trace of the uncertainty of the second games as he built up a sizeable lead. Indeed, at 14-7 he looked good for the match but the experience of the Chinese was what shifted the balance in his favour. He whittled down the lead and, in fact, Dua had to fight to come back into the reckoning at 20-20 before losing the next two points and the match.

It was a new Dua that one saw performing that day. He seemed to have psyched himself up to attack the Chinese player and moved in on his return of serve aggressively, with the result that his opponent seemed baffled about what was happening. This put Dua off his rhythm and it was only his experience that pulled him through in a most tricky situation.

Also in the men's team events, India gave Japan some anxious moments before losing. Indian national champion Chandrashekhkar took on Nuka Juno and beat him in three games. Chandra's victory was the result of some strategic table tennis and this provided the Indian team with a much needed morale booster. Chandra went on to take a game off South Korean Park Lee while Manmeet Singh extended Won Kim. But there were to be no further successes for the hosts.

India's women also went down in all three of their engagements on the second day. But there was at least some consolation for them in their defeat, for apart from China, they met the stiffest opposition that day. Indu Puri gave the Indian women a good start when she beat Keiko Yamashita, but her team-mates could do little to postpone the inevitable.

In another clash between giants, Japan and DPR Korea, the former came a cropper on a day of some incredibly topsy-turvy results. There were a number of shutout scores as the weaker teams were weeded out by 5-0 margins.



Manjit Dua serves against Seiji Ono of Japan

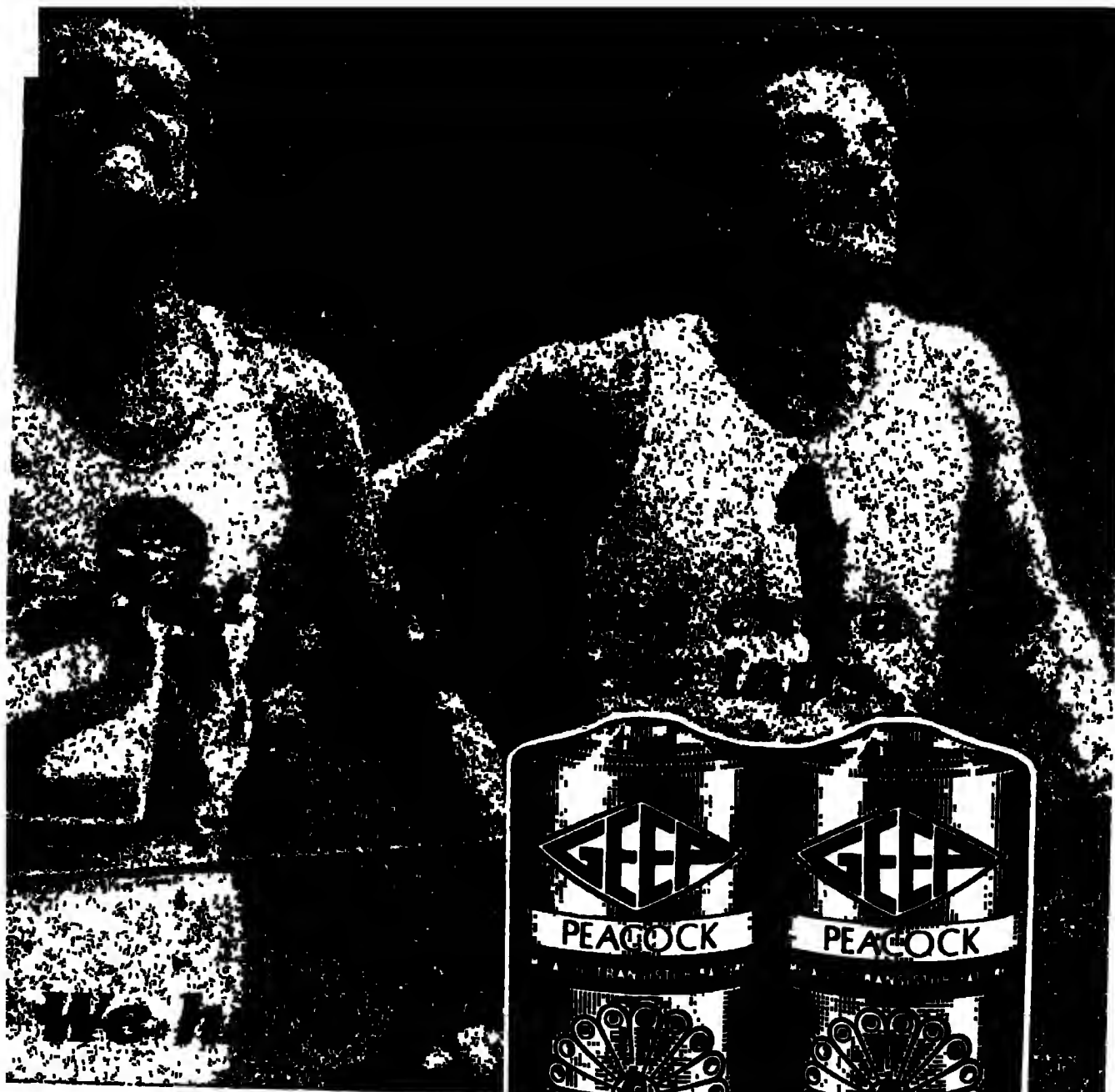
**O**NE of the earlier matches that caught the interest of the spectators was the one involving Pakistan and North Yemen. Pakistan, perhaps a trifle overconfident, were shocked to see the form of their opponents. The new players performed well with Yemen's Ahmed Mohammed Zaied taking two matches for his team. One of these was a trigger-point encounter with Pakistan's top seed, the talented Arif Nakhuda.

But the young Yemenese player showed that he did not quite have the kind of temperament demanded of a top level player. He seemed rather highly strung and in his undue haste to get the game moving, was hauled up on two occasions for foul serves.

**I**T was not at all surprising that the Chinese women took the gold medal in the team championship. They had arrived in Delhi as the strongest contenders for the team title and

proved that they could do little wrong. Their match to the gold was confident and impressive and they look good for years to come. Apart from just having a good side, they are well balanced and that is what really counts in the ultimate analysis. They have such depth of talent that they have no fear about retaining their supremacy.

The girls of the Republic of Korea won the silver, while DPR Korea took the bronze. China were given the lead in the decisive encounter by 20-year old Cao Yanhu, who is actually their national number two seed. She had two close games against 19-year-old Yang but was streets ahead in the decider, which she won 21-10. Long Ling consolidated the position of her team and though the Korean doubles pair won their encounter, the outcome was decided in favour of the Chinese with the next match.



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**Japan** has claimed the highest tally of medals in every Asiad held so far

	1st Asian Games	Asian Games Record	1982 Asiad
<b>LONG JUMP</b>	Men	M. Tajima (Japan) 7.14 m	T C. Yohannan (India) 8.07 m
	Women	K Sugimura (Japan) 5.91 m	C Ping Hsiao (China) 6.31 m
<b>HIGH JUMP</b>	Men	A. Franco (Philippines) 1.94 m	T Ghilassi (Iran) 2.21 m
	Women	K. Yoneda (Japan) 1.49 m	T Cheng (China) 1.88 m
<b>DECATHLON</b>	Men	F. Nishituchi (Japan) 6,324 pts	V.S Chauhan (India) 7,375 pts
<b>MARATHON</b>	Men	Chatta Singh (India) 2 hrs 42 mins 58.6 secs	M Sakamoto (Japan) 2 hrs 15 mins 29.7 secs

**Thums Up**

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## SWIMMING

**A**T the last Asian Games in Bangkok, Japan would have made a clean sweep of all the events but for the efforts of Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines each of whom won a gold medal. But at the Talkatora Gardens swimming pool, the Japanese made their intentions clear in both the men's and women's categories.

At the traditional flag raising ceremonies following each event, it was noticeable that the rising sun was the flag raised most often and a knot of Japanese children in the stands waved their national colours in delight. Swimmer after swimmer from Japan struck gold, but perhaps none of them set the pool alight in the manner of Hiroko Nagasaki.

Nagasaki, who is only 14 years old, was singled out as a potential medal

winner in the 200m breaststroke even before she arrived in New Delhi. True to form, she set the first swimming record at the meet in the heats on the first day. She clocked 2:36.18 to the delight of her compatriots but there was an obvious indication that this teenager was swimming well within herself.

Yet another Japanese lass was at her best that day. Kaori Yanase outstripped the rest of the field in the 200m freestyle with a timing of 2:06.86 to erase the old mark of Thailand's R. Bulakul, which was 2:09.89. Once again, there was the indication that she was keeping something in reserve for the final the following day. If anything these two achievements disproved the theory that performances at the Talkatora pool would not be up to expectations because of climatic and pool conditions.

Sure enough, five records were set in the six finals that were completed before this issue went to press. Though Japan held the overall sway—and how!—the first gold went to the Philippines through William Wilson, who clocked a new Asian record of 1:57.41 as he churned through the clear waters of the pool. Japan did not figure at all in this event as the silver and bronze medals went to Jin Huang Jia and Guo Hua Huang, both of China.

But there were to be no more victories for other countries as Japan swept the next five golds in a row. To set the tone for Japan's ascendancy, Kaori Yanase swam a confident, perfectly judged 200m freestyle race, pacing herself well to clock 2:06.12, thereby shaving 0.74 sec off her own mark set the previous day. But there were none of the histrionics that normally accompanies such an occur-



Yanase of Japan looks on as compatriot Mika Saito winds down after the duo finished first and second respectively in the 200 m freestyle for women

ance, only a satisfied smile and a trace of shy giddiness.

Japan also took the silver in the same event through Mika Saito, who was close on the heels of her compatriot, while China's Mai She Lee claimed the bronze. But the difference in class was all too apparent between the record setter and the rest of the contestants.

Japan's next gold came in the 400m individual medley when Ken Chi Chata was a clear winner with a new Asiad timing of 4:39.86. The silver went to China's Jia Zhang Pan and the bronze to Japan's Chin Ji. There was a note of cheer for India in this event. Khazan Singh, who swam the final in lane six, received a very special round of applause from the stands as he took his place on the starting blocks. J. J. Jacob was also greeted warmly by the home crowd but it was Khazan who earned a very special place for himself in the hearts of the spectators when he finished a very creditable fourth with a timing of 5:04.97. This, incidentally, earned him a new national record but he too can improve further.

In the 400m medley for women the event that is being held for only the second time in the Asian Games, there was an astounding finish when all three swimmers broke the existing record in the name of Mai Harata of Japan. The frontrunners in this event were all moving ahead of the clock and they received a tremendous ovation from the crowd when the timing was flashed and the momentous announcement was made. Judges Patsy Madan had to struggle home.

Hidaka Khasimizu of Japan finished first with a timing of 5:02.79. It was apparent that she was the strongest in the freestyle for this was where she consolidated her lead. During the breaststroke phase of the race her compatriot Naomi Sekido closed in the gap, reducing it to less than a foot, but that was as far as she got. Her timing of 5:07.09 is any indication. The third place went to South Korea's See Eun Lee who was yards ahead of her nearest rival. In passing, it would not be out of place to mention that these three swimmers looked a cut above the rest.

The 200m breaststroke saw the women's record broken by the brilliant Nagasaki. As expected, she bettered her own mark of the day by four seconds. She clipped almost three seconds off her timing to finish with 2:33.78 and ended the race almost twenty feet ahead of her nearest rival. DPR Korea took their first swimming medal through Myong Suk Kim in this event. There was a special Indian interest in this race as Geeta Anand had qualified for the final. There was a special shout for her as she neared the starting block and, completely unaffected, she turned to her fans in the stands and

smiled, biting her lower lip shyly. But there was little she could do to keep up with the frontrunners, try gamely though she did.

In the 200m breaststroke for men, Shigeo Haru Takahashi, who set the Asiad record in the event in Bangkok four years ago, led the mortification of being beaten into third place. The

gold in this event went to his compatriot Naritoshi Matsuda who clocked 2:25.99. It was grim satisfaction for the luckless Takahashi that Matsuda was outside the former's timing by approximately two and a half seconds. The silver medal went to Fu Jin of China. Judging by appearances, though, Japan are going to be hard to match.



The sensational Hiroko Nagasaki on her way to a new record in the 200 m freestyle for women.

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## WATERPOLO

**I**NDIA opened their campaign against the swift, talented Chinese. They could not have wished for a more deadly adversary, for the Chinese, though they dominated the run of play throughout, were clearly not extending themselves against a side that did not even start with a chance.

The Chinese scored no less than six goals in the first quarter alone and then they resorted to toying with their opponents. The Indian players were unable to retain possession of the ball for any real length of time and even when they were faced with scoring chances they could do nothing to convert them. At one stage, two Indian players had only one opposing defender to beat but they could not deliver the goods. By the time the Klaxon sounded for the second quarter, it was clear that the Chinese were taking it easy. They even began to pass to one another in front of the Indian goalmouth, such was then lack of regard for our defence.

In the last quarter, however, India put two goals in, much to the delight of the crowd but that was about the end of the road for the final scoreboard read 20-2 in favour of China.

It was altogether quite a different story from India's match against Hong Kong, whom they defeated

14-4. Against the Chinese, they were completely outclassed. The Chinese captain Xiao Tian Wang, in cap number 2, was devastating while India's scorers were Sushil Kohli and Prabhakaran Nair.

## VOLLEYBALL

**T**HE difference of standards between the top two—China and Japan—and the rest of the teams in the fray in the men's and women's volleyball competitions of the current Asian Games is so acute that the first three days' competition saw one-sided battles take place with monotonous frequency.

There was a suspenseful wait before the draw was announced, in the eleventh hour, but compensation was provided for the Indian men's team by the fact that they have been drawn alongside Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Bangladesh in Group 'A'.

In fact, at the time of writing, India have a more than reasonable chance of making it to the fourth spot. They began their campaign on the opening day by plastering Bangladesh in less than forty-five minutes, conceding just four points in the process. Having seen both Indonesia and Saudi Arabia do battle, one is convinced that India should be able to top this group and enter the super league of toppers from the other three groups.

There are 15 men's teams in the competition and they have been divided into four groups for the preliminary rounds. In the final round, the toppers of each of the four groups battle for the first four spots, the second spotters of each group battle for the fifth to the eighth spots and so on.

The women's section has six teams—India, China, Japan, the two Koreas and the Philippines battling for a place in the sun on a round robin league basis.

The main interest in the volleyball competition centres around clashes between the Chinese and Japanese. The Chinese men gave notice of their intentions when they whipped Iraq in straight sets for the loss of just eight points.

The line-up in the super league appears to be China, Japan, South Korea (the reigning champions who dethroned Japan at the last Asiad) and hosts India.

India's fortunes in the women's section appear to be confined to avoiding the ignominy of finishing last in the six team pool. Much will depend on the match against the women from the Philippines because the first four places are 'reserved' for China, Japan and the two Koreas. India's opening match, against North Korea, ended disastrously for the hosts, Sally Joseph and company managing only nine points in a three-setter.



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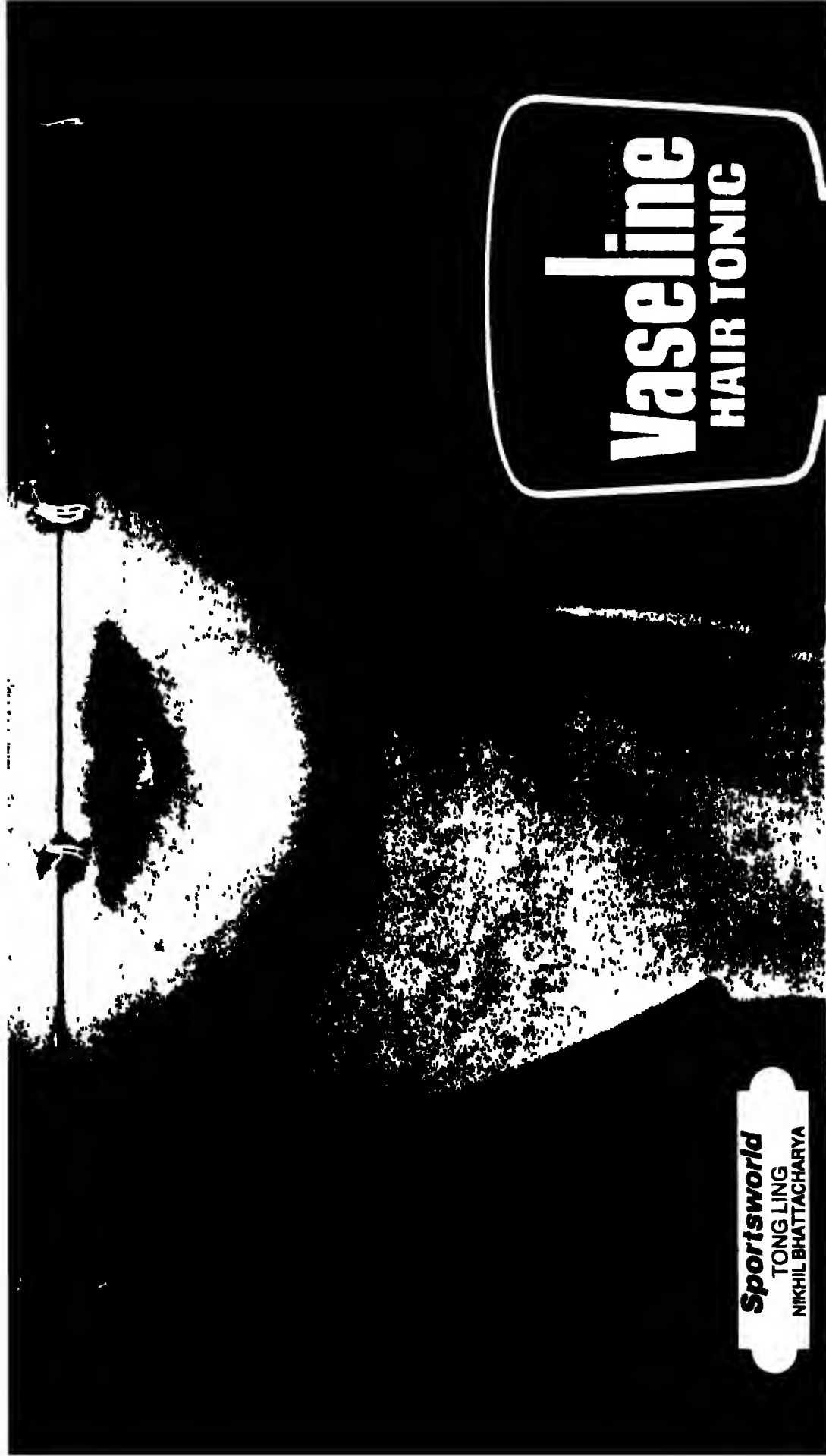
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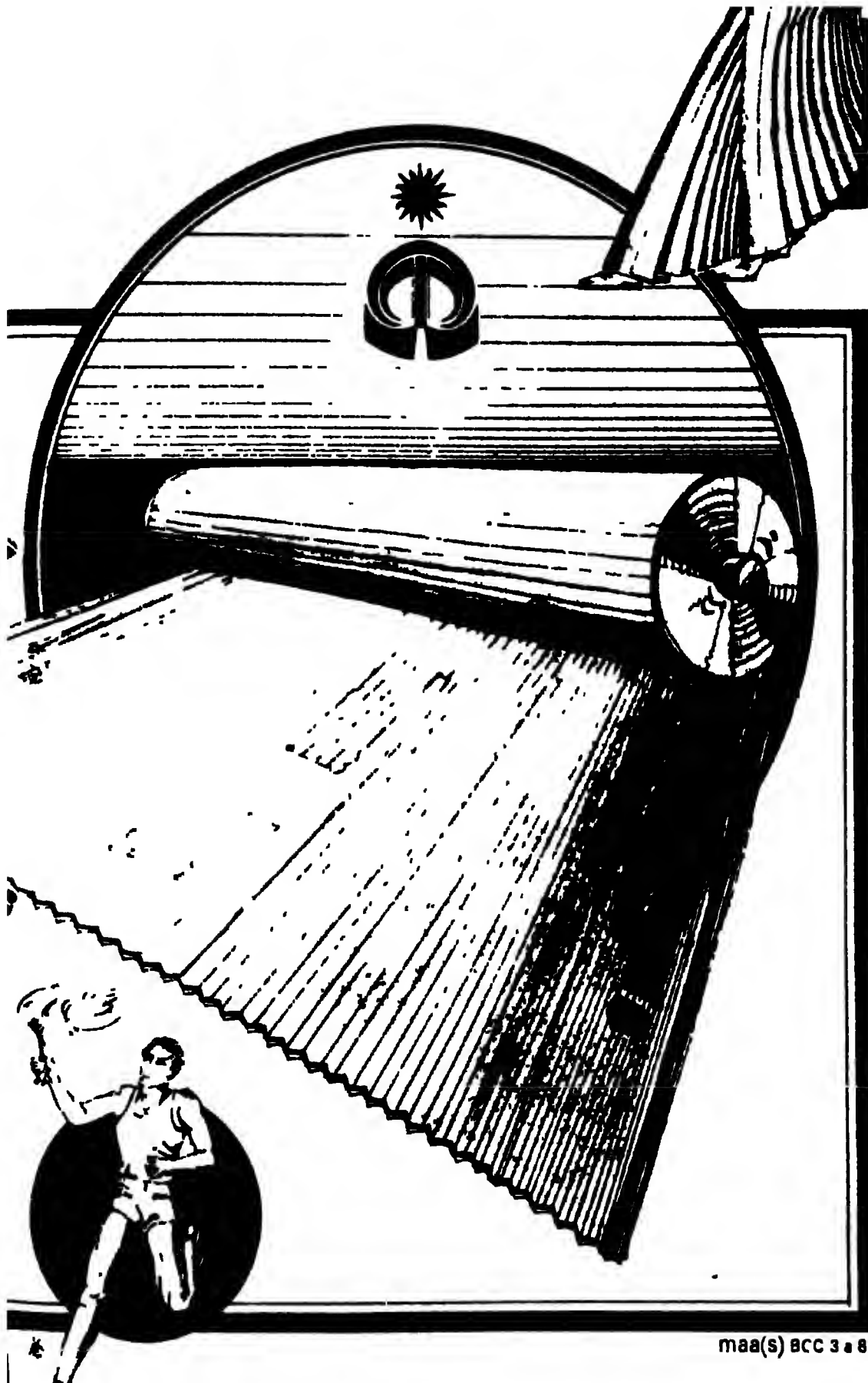


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# FACE TO FACE AT THE ASIAD

**Name** Lydia de Vega  
**Country** Philippines  
**Discipline** Athletics

**W**atch out for a slim young girl with the word "Philippines" stencilled across the back of her tracksuit jacket.

The name, for those who have not heard it already, is Lydia de Vega, but she is no newcomer to the athletics world. She first came into the international spotlight at the Tokyo track and field and has since, as they say, gone from strength to strength.

Lydia is no ordinary sprinter, for she combines an abundance of natural talent with diligent practice. As if that was not good enough, she is also stunning to look at. Ask any of her thousands of admirers the world over. They will testify. With wistful sighs. Ah yes, the girl is a knockout, no doubt about it.

She is quick to point out that she would be a cypher today if it were not for the tireless efforts of her father, who is her coach and most ardent fan. But, to be fair, it must also be pointed out that he is also her fiercest critic. In a relationship reminiscent of Sebastian Coe and his father Peter, the de Vegas combine the rule of parent and child with that of student and pupil with remarkable ease. Lydia's father, Francisco de Vega, once revelled in politics but gave it all away to become an athletics coach and more specifically, to train his beloved daughter. The senior de Vega has one aim: to ensure that his daughter's name finds a place in history and he makes no secret of the fact.

And why not? As critics the world

over have pointed out—it should be said—she is a star already. But her father is not content with this alone. Impatience with better timings, swifter performance, these are what he wants of his daughter and he knows the best way to go about achieving his ambition.

Lydia has the very essence of sport flowing in her veins. Her father was also a boxer of some merit, while her mother was an all-rounder, having excelled in basketball and volleyball as well as having achieved a fair level of proficiency as a sprinter.

Lydia notched up astounding wins last December at the South East Asian Games, when she struck gold in both her events, the 200m and 400m. The media hailed her as a new superstar. Enchanted by her sprinting, hypnotised by her charm and completely bewitched by her Oriental beauty, the media declared that she was the best thing that had happened to Asian sport in a long time.

But the praise did not go to her head. At first it gave her an inflated opinion of her own talent. Her father quickly saw to it that she kept both feet on the ground. Literally and metaphorically. Lydia stuck to her workouts, her schedules and her books. She was not yet out of college, for she was only 17.

But the blaze of publicity brought with it a rather difficult choice. Lydia was asked to model, then offered a film role. It was a terribly tantalising offer for a teenager. Lydia had a choice, but some astute counselling from her father ensured that she would do the movie,

while remaining close to the cinder track at the same time.

It was in English film, entitled "Medaling Contender" and was to be based on her life story. Lydia therefore, was a natural choice to play the role and after a great deal of soul searching she accepted the role, signed the contract and plunged wholeheartedly into the project.

The script was first scrutinised by her father, who saw to it that Lydia was not exposed to any doubtful scenes and ensured that there were no kissing sequences. Once he was assured of this, shooting began in earnest and the young star was plunged into the kind of environment that most people only dream about.

The film was released on 16 November this year in Manila and Lydia admitted to nerves as she attended the show. But the butterflies soon vanished when the capacity audience gave her a generous bout of applause and then clapped in delight at several parts in the film. This, she explained, gave her a great deal of confidence and through this found it awkward to wear a non-skirt and high heels to the premiere, she found the courage to come through the ordeal unscathed and return to the world of sprinting.

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## ARCHERY

**J**APAN's accuracy and prestige took a big jolt at the Delhi University ground for the Ninth Asiad. Their supremacy in both the men's and women's divisions was questioned—and effectively so—by the South Koreans, who are emerging as a force to reckon with in this sport. While the South Korean men erased the existing record held by Japan (3692 points) by a comfortable margin of 36 points. The women also finished on top in the team championship, with a cumulative tally of 3853 points. This also set a new record, surpassing the old mark held by the Japanese.

In this event North Korea claimed the silver while China took the bronze. Surprising though it may seem, Japan did not figure among the medal winners. Interestingly, the Indian women's team proved to be better than their male counterparts when they finished fifth with 3553 points, while the Indian men ended a poor eighth.

While Japan were whitewashed in the women's events, the story was no different in the men's division where Indonesia took the silver and China the bronze. Whether this is the end of Japan's domination of this sport or not is difficult to tell, but the Delhi Asiad has proved that there are a



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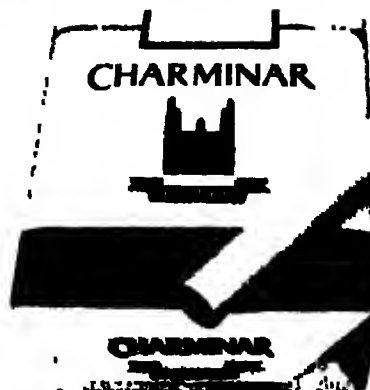
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whole host of contenders for the crown in this discipline

South Korea's Kim Jin Ho was the focus of attention on the second day when she equalled her own world record in the 60-metre event, scoring 336 out of a possible 360. At first it was not clear whether this was a new world record or not since there was no information forthcoming from the much-vaunted computer centre. But a later cross check revealed that she had, in fact, shot a similar score earlier in an archery tournament in Tokyo in 1980.

That apart, she has certainly bettered the previous world record of 334 points held by Valentina Kovpan of the Soviet Union and set in 1978. Kim Jin's feat also brought her an Asian record.

Because of her persistent shooting in the 60 metre event, Kim Jin further improved her position, but her compatriot Gwang Sun Ho matched her shot for shot and the issue was wide open in the shorter distance events. On the final day, though, Kim Jin lost the women's individual title to Gwang Sun Ho by just one point. The latter accumu-



Kim Jin Ho releasing

lated 1295 points to take the gold. The bronze medal in this event also went to another South Korean, Mi Young Kim, thus rounding off a clean sweep for the first three places.

The greatest surprise came in the men's division. Although South Korea had won the team championship, Japan's Hiroshi Yamamoto clinched the gold in the individual contest with a total of 1283 points.

His team-mate Takayoshi Matsushita, who had tied on the previous day with him, fell back to third place on the final day as Korea's Kim Yung Woon proved to be more accurate with 1275 points.

Although the Indians did reasonably well at Delhi, the main drawback is the lack of strength to handle the heavier equipment, which their rivals managed with the greatest of ease. But it should be mentioned that India is in no way lagging behind in terms of technique. If our archers were able to use the heavier bows to good effect, they would automatically find the top positions easier to come by.

While the Indian men archers lacked consistent accuracy, the women fared excellently by way of comparison. Both the Das sisters, Krishna and Kaberi, performed well. The younger girl, must be singled out as she had never had it so good with regard to accuracy. Team-mate Runa Dey performed below expectations but the Japanese coach Zuro had the last say "I am really surprised that India has improved so vastly. They will go far."

South Korea's Kim Jin Ho examines her accuracy





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# CYCLING

**T**HE cycling at the Ninth Asian Games began with the gruelling 100 kilometre road race team event. The talented Japanese had traditionally held sway in this event since it was first introduced at the 1966 Bangkok Asiad. The only time their dominance was threatened was at the Teheran Asiad where Iran pipped them for the gold medal.

Iran had initially proved to be a force to reckon with as early as the 1970 Bangkok Asiad. It was then that they gave the speedy Japanese a run for their money, undaunted by the fact that the latter set a new Asiad record of 2 hrs 13 min 38.61 sec.

Till the last Games four years ago, South Korea's best performance had been a silver, but the spirited cyclists gave the impression that they would not rest until they had won a gold, such was the determination they showed. They have trained like Trojans in the interim and have spared neither effort nor expense towards this aim.

The event was flagged off by Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal at Daruhara, approximately seventy Kilometres from the capital. There was a motley crowd of spectators at the starting point, to watch the beginning of the 12 team race. All teams completed the testing event without any problems whatsoever.

The issue was wide open at the start, and perhaps the Japanese did not foresee that they were about to lose their crown. Their four riders, Masatoshi Ichikawa, Hiroyuki Sekine, Matsuyoshi Takahashi and Masamoto Yabe looked cool and confident but fate had decreed that this was not to be their day.

The South Koreans, represented by Jang Yun Ho, Kim Byung Sun,

Kim Chul Seok and Lee Jin, started last but established a strong pace.

Despite fears that they would not be able to maintain this speed, the Koreans never looked as though they were going to burn themselves



out. They did not take long to establish their grip on the event as they looked devastating in the sixth lap, by which time it was only a question of whether they would be able to sustain their effort.

Sure enough, the Japanese—who had started three minutes earlier—

were overtaken in the seventh lap and the Koreans seemed to take inspiration from this fact. Theirs was truly a brilliant performance, capped with an incredible burst of speed in the final 200 metres.

It was not surprising that they set a new Asiad record of 2 hrs 10 min 39.42 sec, an achievement that is as much a tribute to the abilities of their coach as it is to their own grit and talent.

After the race, a jubilant Yong Teak Jung, the South Korean manager, explained that he had instructed his team to give it their all. Had he given them a pep talk with regard to the Japanese? Apparently not, for the South Koreans were fully confident in their own abilities and knew that they could deliver the goods even under pressure.

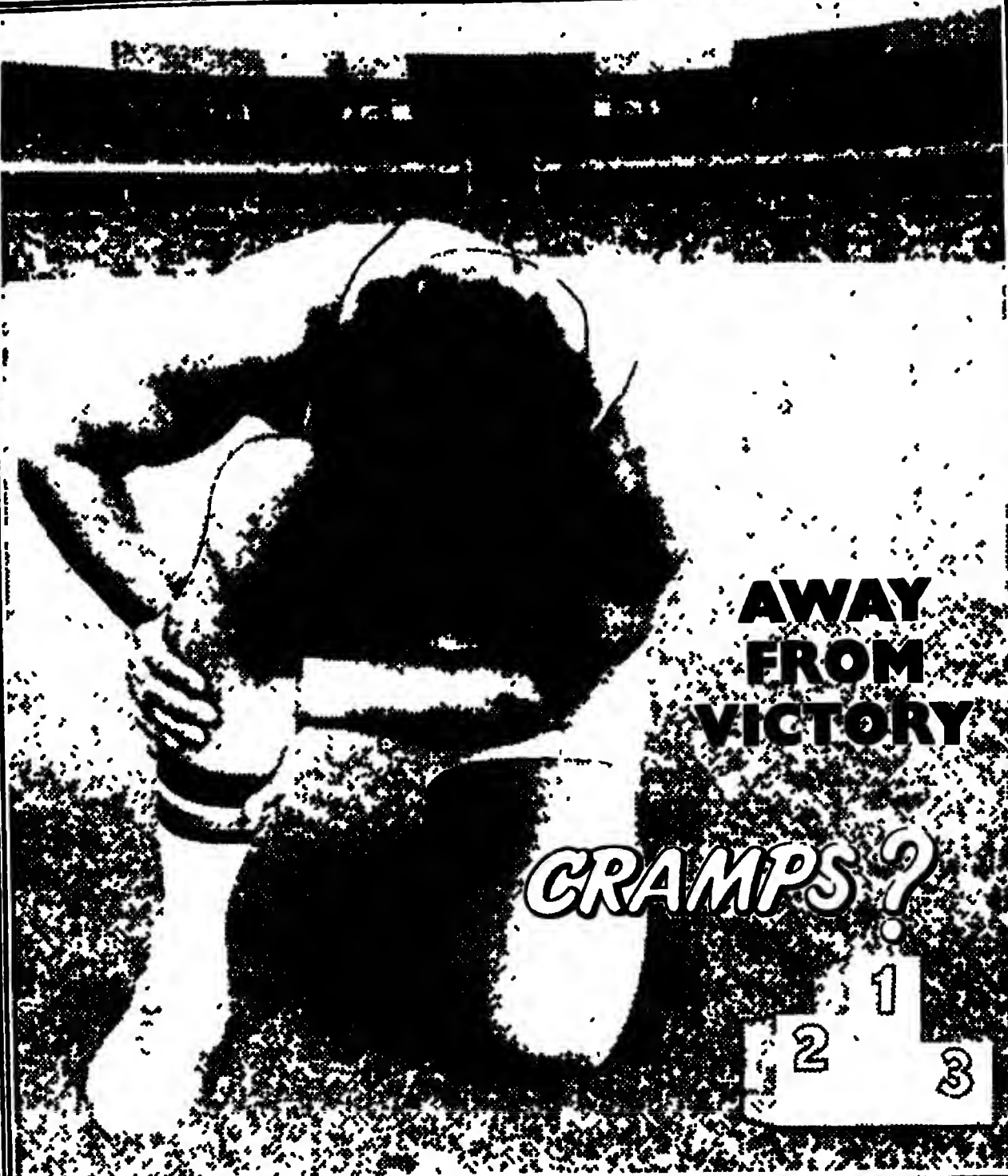
The disappointed Japanese coach, Mr Ono Iekao, explained that his team had done their best but he conceded very matter-of-factly that the Korean squad was the stronger of the two and had a clear edge over the Japanese. Incidentally, Mr Tekao had set the 100 Kilometre time trial record at Bangkok in 1970.

The Indian quarter finished fifth, a position they could never have hoped for even a couple of years ago. By doing so, they lived up to the expectations of Danish coach Kim Retshammer. The fact that Kanwaldeep Singh dropped out in the seventh lap was unfortunate, but it would not have changed things in anyway.



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# RECORDS

## PAST & PRESENT

IN ASIAN GAMES, JACQUELINE

**T**HE most impressive feat of the third day of the Games was achieved by South Korea's Kim Jin Hoe. In archery she equalled her world record, set in 1980, by scoring 336 points in the women's 60 metre event. The record holder in this event previously was Valentina Covepan who bagged 334 points out of 360.

In fact, this was a day that saw as many as 13 Asian records to be established by the men and women participants of the Far Eastern countries, with Japan threatening to play havoc with the chances of its rivals in the fray. They bagged six of the records set, while South Korea accounted for three and China two. The Philippines and North Korea managed one record each.

Japan launched their onslaught on the record book by setting four new Asian marks in the swimming events for men and women. Hardly any resistance they had to face in the pools of the gorgeous Talkatora Gardens and, but for William Wilson, they could have enjoyed a clean sweep by turning all the five records, set on the day, to their account.

In the men's 200 metres freestyle Filipino William Wilson gave a brilliant performance clocking one minute 57.41 seconds to win the gold. This was 1.27 seconds better than the timing secured by his compatriot Gerardo Bassario.

Though Philippines inaugurated the record-breaking spree of the day in the swimming events, Japan was to stage a blitzkrieg before long and all the four successive records went to them. However, it was the Japanese women who outclassed their counter-

parts in the men's events in the record race. Of the four records by Japan, as many as three came through the women swimmers—in 200m freestyle, 400 metres medley and 200 metres breaststroke. Kaori Yanase clocked 2 min. 06.12 seconds in the women's freestyle event. In fact, in the heats itself she had bettered the previous mark by finishing in 2 min. 06.86 secs. The holder of the obliterated record was Rahanowan Bulakul of Thailand, whose timing in this event in the 1978 Bangkok Games was 2 min. 09.75 secs.

The lone man among the Chinese swimmers to set a record on the day was Keichi Ohata. He won the gold in the men's 400m individual medley, clocking four minutes 39.86 seconds. That was 4.68 seconds less than his timing in the heats and a new meet record. In fact, all the three medal winners in this event surpassed the previous mark of 4 minutes 10.80 secs, that stood in the name of Tatsuni of Japan and was achieved at the eighth Asian Games at Bangkok.

Back to the feats of the Japanese women, Koshimuzu Hideka timed 5 minutes 02.79 seconds to shatter her compatriot Hirate Mie's record of 5

minutes and 08.34 seconds. Here again all the three medal winners bettered the previous mark. In 200m breaststroke for women Japan's Hideko Nagataki achieved a new Games record by clocking 2.33.78. The previous timing was 2.41.01. In the individual events of men's archery two new records were made. In 90m Takayoshi Marushita of Japan scored 298 out of 360 to shatter the previous one of 293. In 70 metres also Japan stole the limelight when Yamamoto secured 320 to surpass the old record by 10 points.

In the women's competition of 70m, North Korea's Ming Young Kim shot up to the fore by setting a new record of 320 out of 350, while the previous score was 292. And then there comes the name of the world beater 60m Kim Jin Hoe of South Korea who repeated her feat of 1980 by once again surpassing the former world record holder Valentina Covepan's score of 334 by 2 points.

In cycling the South Koreans put up a dazzling show in the 100 km road race to create a new record of two hours and 10 minutes, thereby slicing 2.58.74 minutes off the previous one held by Japan in Bangkok during the last Games.

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## GYMNASTICS

**T**HE brilliant Chinese continued their dominance of this event at the magnificent Indraprastha Indoor Stadium, when they annexed the men's team gold on the first day. Their superior allround skill was never in doubt and they performed confidently as they swept the top honours.

It was difficult to imagine that any of the other men's teams would come near to challenging the Chinese with any assurance. For sheer visual pleasure and aesthetic beauty, they were unsurpassable. They were always a shade better than their closest rivals, the Japanese, whom they pushed into second place while DPR Korea took third place.

The final scores were as follows: China finished with a tally of 290.65 points, with Japan on 288.55 and the Koreans on 286.10. India finished fifth in this event, behind the South Koreans, the home team finally recording a tally of 257.55.

It is worth recording that the finishing order in this event has thus remained unchanged at the past three Asian Games, with the Chinese therefore recording a hat-trick in this event over the last twelve years. For the Chinese, their top three gymnasts, Ning Li, Fei Tong and Yun Lou, notched up more than 58 points in different exercises to give their team a flying start. The rivalry between the Chinese and the Japanese

*Chinese women gymnasts loosen up before the hour of reckoning*



*The Chinese women's gymnastics team, winners of the gold, acknowledge the applause*

and their near perfect movements all made for excellent entertainment value for a 10,000 strong crowd that cheered their every exercise. But the Chinese were always a shade better, whether it was on the floor exercise or on the other apparatus.

It would not be exaggeration to say that Ning Li stole the show. The crowd just could not get enough of him and he for his part revelled in the adulation, for it seemed to inspire him to greater glory. He, incidentally, is the Chinese national champion and the winner of the gold medal at the World Championships. But not far behind him in talent and spectator appeal was the lithe Fei Tong. Although he is not as experi-

enced as his more illustrious teammate, Fei even went as far as to score a point more than Li in the floor exercise.

Japan are going to be closely watched in coming years for they proved here at Delhi that they are not content with playing second fiddle to the Chinese who have held sway in the realm of Asian gymnastics for so long. The all-Japan champion, Gushiken Koji, who finished third in the last World Championships, was then star performer and the man who led the Japanese challenge. Among the other Japanese, Jirata Noritoshi, also an all-Japan champion, proved his expertise on the parallel bar and the



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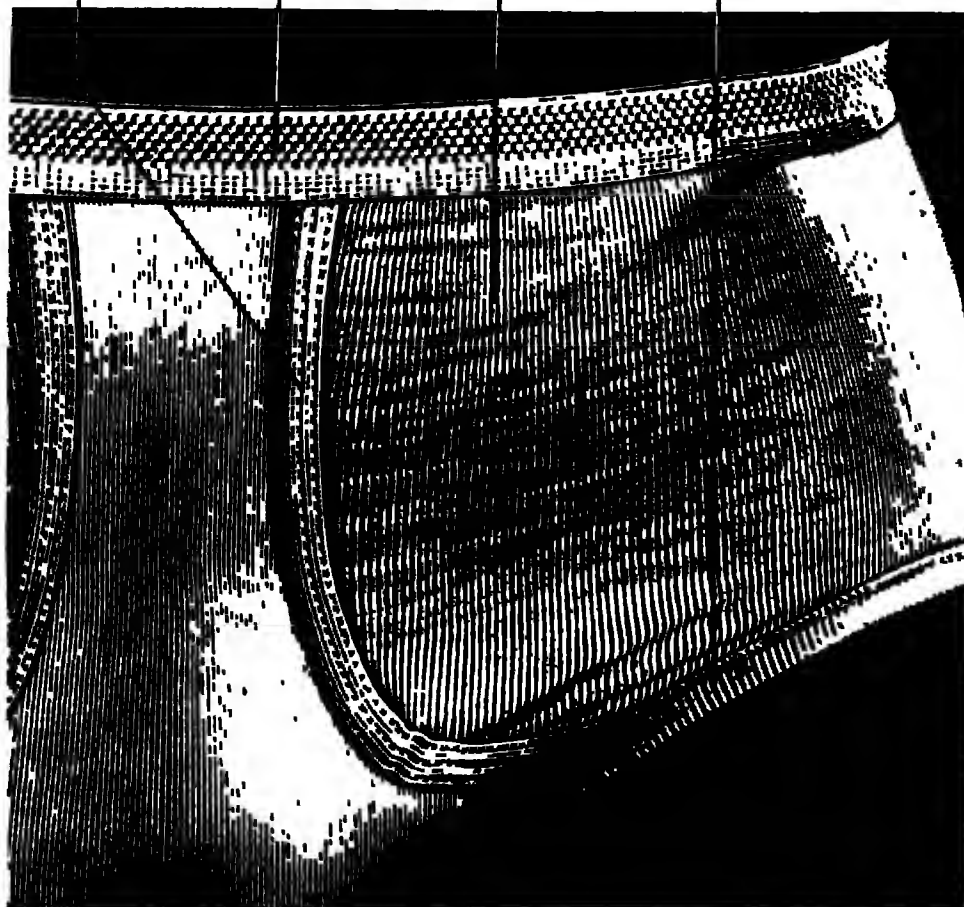
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horizontal bar. Others among the Japanese to impress were Sotomura Koji, Taichu Okada and Kajitani Nobuyuki.

As far as the women's gymnastics went, it was more or less the same story with one minor change. Although the Chinese—once again the favourites for the team gold—finished on top, there was an upset for the silver Japan, strongly tipped to take second place, were eventually forced to make do with the bronze when the North Koreans put the pressure on with a brilliant display. The Chinese girls received their medals from none other than the Prime Minister herself.

The North Koreans performed consistently to pose problems for the Japanese, but the loudest applause was reserved for 15-year-old Jian Wu who recorded 9.90 in the beam and floor exercises. She totalled no less than 39.05 points out of a possible total of 40 to prove that she is capable of keeping the Chinese flag flying for quite some time to come. Among her team-mates, the pony-tailed 19-year-old Yongyan Chen, caught the eye in the floor exercises, in which she finished with 9.85. She too had earned distinction at the last World Championships, where she finished second in the beam and sixth in the uneven bars. Yanli Yang, also of China, completed the talented trio, while Jia Wan, Culing Li and Yu Xiang did their bit as well.



**YONGYAN**  
Yong Yan of China displays her prowess on the balancing beam

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## YACHTING

**I**F the first two days are any indication then Japan, Pakistan and India are strong contenders for the honours in yachting at the Asian Games being conducted in the Arabian Sea off Bombay.

Thirteen countries are participating in the Fireball, Enterprise, OK Dinghy and Windglider events. Thirty eight boats are in the fray. On both the days India topped the fireball category while Pakistan headed the OK Dinghy section and Japan was first in the Windglider and Enterprise events.

The races will be held on seven consecutive days. Each participant is allowed to drop one timing, which means that the best average of the remaining six races will determine the winners in each section.

The OK Dinghy has the highest number of entries, which is 12. The Windglider and the Enterprise have nine each while the Fireball has eight entries.

The races on both days were delayed due to insufficient wind conditions. The wind speed has varied from six to eight knots per hour. The water current out in the sea are rather swift and it does demand a lot from the yachtsmen to overcome this occurrence.

This is where Farokh Tarapore and Zahir Karanjia have scored over the



Farokh Tarapore and Zahir Karanjia in their Fireball.

other competitors in the Fireball category. Even a handicap of a bad start on the second day did not deflate the Indian team's determination to finish ahead of the field. The Fireball requires great skill as it is a high performance boat.

Tarapore and Karanjia have succeeded mainly due to their superior

spinnaker control. Tarapore 22 and Karanjia 20, have raised medal hopes for the country.

Jejee Unwalla as helmsman in the enterprise class is at the moment more concerned with achieving consistency rather than burning himself out. It could work out to his advantage as the meet progresses because Unwalla faces tough competition from Pakistan's Byram Avari, the gold medallist at the 1978 Asian Games and Japan's Inoue and Baba.

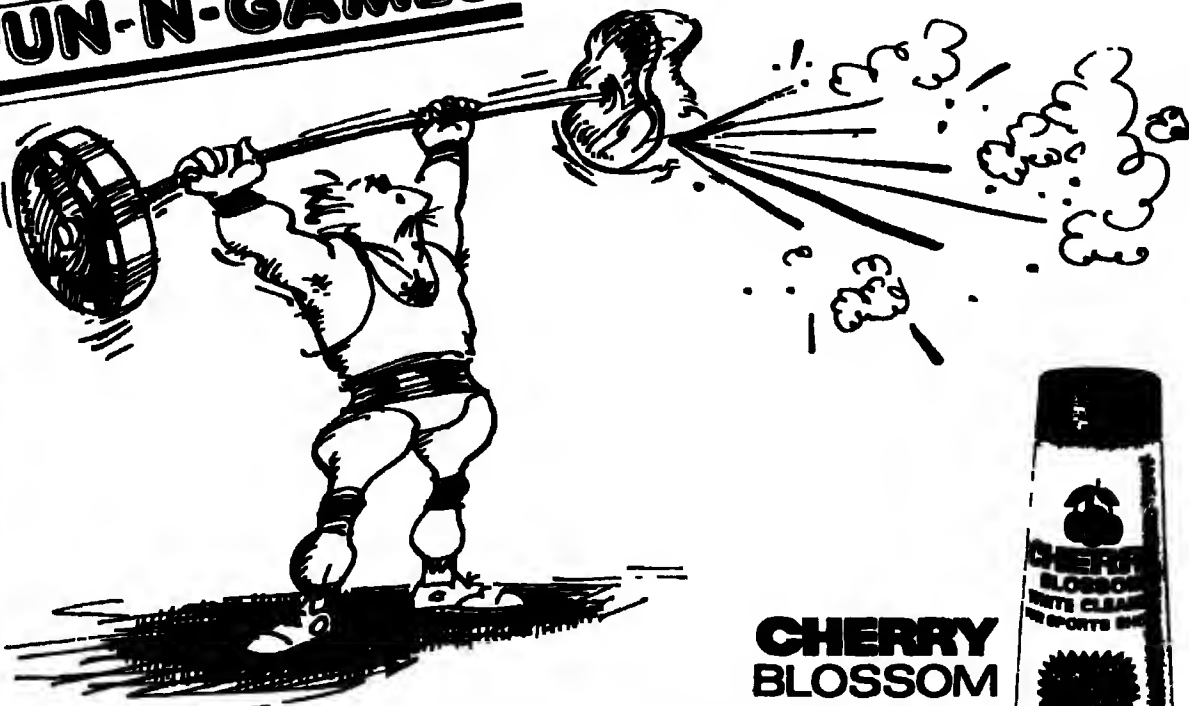
Helping Jejee is his elder brother Fali. Said Jejee "At the moment I am not worried about the Japanese team. From our point of view what is important is that we have finished ahead of Byram Avari. This is not to say we underestimate the Japanese."

C S Pradipak, India's representative in the OK Dinghy category finished second on the first day. On the second day he finished fourth, but a protest of technical infringement by him against Thailand's T Santi who was third which was upheld by the jury enabled Pradipak to finish third.

Captain Pak Deepak Dikhit in the Windglider event has faced the stiffest competition. This is a comparatively new event in India. Dikhit finished fifth and fourth on the two days respectively.

Barring the unforeseen, India should bag a medal in the Fireball, Enterprise and OK Dinghy category.

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## Rovers goes overseas

HARESH MUNWANI reports from Bombay

**T**HIS year the Rovers Cup, the most prestigious football trophy in Western India will be going overseas. Carrying it will be the Salahuddin Club of Iraq. Salahuddin, the first foreign team to participate in this tournament in the last 25 years, beat Mohammedan Sporting in the final 2-1.

Mohammedan Sporting can take consolation from the fact that they made Salahuddin work hard for their triumph. The Iraqi team did not have things very much their way and this is where Mohammedan Sporting differed from Mohun Bagan who were thrashed 3-0 in the semi-finals by Salahuddin.

In the final analysis it was the Mohammedan Sporting defence that guarded its citadel with tenacity of purpose. Moidul Islam, Anudeb Das and Mushir Ahmed in deep defence and Debashish Mishra, Irshad Ahmed and Mehmood Khabaji coordinated well and prevented a lot of

assault on the Sporting goal.

This is exactly where the difference between the two sides lay. While Mohammedan Sporting utilised the 4-3-3 formation, Salahuddin was playing the 4-2-4 combination, because of which the Sporting defence was so busy defending that there were times when they forgot that they should feed their forwards.

Goalkeeper Pratap Ghosh of Sporting put up another confident performance. Early in the match he foiled Sidwar's attempt at the goal by moving swiftly sideways, and on two occasions Sabah Abdul Hassan failed to beat him.

Sporting depended a lot on Majid Baskar for throwing the opposition defence in disarray. But in this tournament the ebullient Iranian has been a shadow of himself because of the injury he suffered on his left thigh. As a result there have been a dearth of ideas among the other Mohammedan Sporting forwards.

The first half ended without either side enjoying success. Salahuddin drew first blood eventually. After the game was in progress for fifty minutes, Unad Abid, the spearhead of Salahuddin, beat Pem Dorji and finding Pratap Ghosh stranded at one end, shot low into the net.

Mohammedan Sporting equalised, 14 minutes later in what seemed a confusing situation. But photographic evidence suggested that the linesman Sahian was absolutely correct in awarding the goal to Sporting. On the right flank Majid intercepted a pass of Sabah Abdul Hassan and then crossed to Jamshid. The latter's header was not collected cleanly by goalie Sabah Hussain and Majid picked the loose ball and sent a cross to Somnath Banerjee who headed it home. Nasir Ali kicked the ball but in doing so had his feet behind the line.

Fifteen minutes from the end, Salahuddin got their winning goal due to a Sporting defensive lapse. Mehmood Khabaji in his own half passed back, but no one was stationed there and Nashir Ali quickly despatched the ball to Unad who chipped the return over Ghosh's head into the goal.

**T**HE semi-final clash between defending champions Mohun Bagan and Salahuddin Club of Iraq was an eye-opener to the football enthusiasts in that it showed the wide gap

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in terms of football standards that our teams have to cover before they can be considered of international rating.

The onslaught the Iraqis launched on the Mohun Bagan citadel was relentless and terrific. The Calcutta outfit had a harrowing time defending their citadel. The Iraqis, most of whom are just out of their teens, were an extremely fit bunch. They ran up and down the field without showing any traces of exhaustion.

While the Salahuddin team relied on short passes, Mohun Bagan forwards never quite achieved the combination to press the Iraqi team's goal. After Bagan conceded the first goal, they cracked and yielded two more. All in the space of ten minutes.

Salahuddin's Ali Mehdad got a loose ball on the left flank and sent a high pass into the box which the opportunistic and omnipresent, Unad Abid the spearhead, headed into the net, moments later Subrata Bhattacharjee committed a foul and a free-kick was awarded. Salahuddin's Sabah Abdul Hassam collected the deflection from a Bagan defender and sent a sizzling shot which beat custodian Shivaji Banerjee all ends up.

The third goal came when Unad converted Sidwas pass from the left. Bagan's Francis D'Souza was off colour in this tournament and was re-

placed by Shyam Thapa, who appeared to be the only forward with the skill to penetrate the Salahuddin defence.

Sarlen Manna, a veteran Mohun Bagan official said after the match: "There was little doubt that the Iraqis were the better team. But I think a score of three nil was not the true indication between the two sides. Our players did not play well because the Iraqis never allowed them any freedom. The first goal we conceded was a silly one and totally unnecessary lapse on the part of our defence. And after a good team like Salahuddin scores a goal the opposing team knows what it is up against it. There is little doubt that the Iraqis played well and displayed the understanding and the combination of a top side."

Wathaq Naji, the coach of Salahuddin had this to say: "We knew Mohun Bagan is a good team. But we also knew that under pressure they lose concentration. So our strategy was to score a quick goal. That's why we went out for an all out attack from the start. And as we saw the moment we got our first goal, we were able to capitalise and add two more. After which I instructed my boys to take it easy and save their energy for the match which was the final."

THE match between Mohammedan Sporting and Salgaocar was marred by an atrocious decision on the part of referee Shetty Debashis Roy of the Calcutta team. He passed the ball inside the Salgaocar box to Majid Baskar who was about to hit the ball when the Goan right back Mariano Dias held Majid and pulled him away. Surprisingly referee Shetty did not award a penalty.

This was the signal for the bottles to come hurtling down from the stands. Fortunately the players did not let the situation get out of hand and thankfully kept their calm. This incident apart, Salgaocar had the better of the exchanges all through the match. But unfortunately for Salgaocar they were not able to convert their chances. Nor, for that matter, was Sporting successful. Jamshid missed two sitters.

In the replayed semi-final the story was no different. Salgaocar clearly had the talent, but lacked the shooting power. It was exactly the opposite for Mohammedan Sporting. But it was the Calcutta side which drew first blood when in the 24th minute Debashis Roy collected Moidul Islam's free kick which was headed by Majid and sent the ball low to the right hand corner of the net.

Salgaocar soon equalised when goalie Pratap Ghosh covered Andrew's shot but found his teammate Mukhtar Ahmed deflecting the ball into the net. At the end the score was one all and the tie breaker came into effect. Sporting prevailed finally. The score being 4-7.

S. Naeemuddin, coach of Moham medan Sporting said, "Our team relaxed a bit because they were expecting to play East Bengal, but found that they were, instead, to meet Salgaocar. Though the Goan side is good, we unconsciously took things a bit easy. Our main player Majid Baskar was not his usual self. He was injured in the earlier match against Orkay. Because of this we played below par."

Also he is the schemer. So we were a bit handicapped. For some reason most of our players lack self confidence and feel that our Iranian players are better. I have been trying to tell them that they are in no way inferior to the Iranians. The refereeing in the replay was better than the first match."

T. Shanmugam, coach of Salgaocar, commented, "In the replay my boys were exhausted and some of our key players suffered injuries. Had we been fitter we should have won. We made two changes. One of them Antonio Joao missed two scoring chances. Once he drove wide and then he delayed passing and was dispossessed. Andrew and goalkeeper Chandrakant had a marvellous game. In the crucial tie-breaker, because my boys were tired, their kicks lacked punch."

The victorious Iraqi team with the trophy



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# RALLY NEWS

COFFEE 500

## Stimulating debut

**O**F all the gut-testing, nerve wracking, posterior-hurting rallies, this was the grand daddy of them all. At the end of a gruelling 30-hour long 'Coffee 500' organised over the Diwali week-end by the Motor Sports Club of Chickmagalur (MSCC), reactions of the 29 participants were more or less variations on this theme

"If we had to cover even 50 more kilometres of the kind of route this rally presented, we may have been tempted to drop out," Gautam Kadam told *Sportsworld*. And, as one rally enthusiast added, "If he says that then you can be sure that the rally was really a tough one. Three time winner of the 'Karnataka 1000' and top seed in ten out of the 12 rallies he has participated in, Gautam Kadam's perseverance appears to have ultimately paid off this one time also. However, while he and his partner Farooq came in with a clean win in the two wheeler category, other top notch participants were not so lucky. Take for instance the four-man Fiat-running team led by B M Ravi, winners of the 1982 'Karnataka 1000' in the four wheeler category who came a cropper barely a quarter into the first sector of the rally. Reportedly going into a skid on a sharp curve, the car flipped over, resulting in a smashed windscreen, though no physical damage to the inmates. The team wasn't available for comment having packed up and returned to Bangalore immediately following the mishap. However, officials of the Chickmagalur Club who had been in touch with them,

was the motor cycle team of Mohun and Nandkishore, the second prize winners in the 1982 'Karnataka 1000' and a winning combination in several other rallies including the Mysore Safari and the South India Rally. Going "very fast" down a



At checkpoint one in the first sector - Dayanand Mandre and team

said they had "dropped out" because, with the dangers of fog in the area, driving without a front windscreen would have been "too much of a risk."

Another unfortunate casualty

mud road they had the misfortune of encountering a startled dog who darted across their path just as they touched the 131 km mark (of the total 407 km first sector). The result when they applied the brakes: death for the dog, a broken leg for

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# KEEPING TRACK

# RALLY NEWS



*Cruising along*

Mohun, a badly smashed crash guard and curtains for the two where the rally was concerned "This is the first major rally in which I had not been placed. And to be out even before completing the first sector both Mohun and I felt horrible."

Lover of the "sport," however, Nandkishore "hung around" for the rest of the event. Messrs Ravi, Mohun and Nandkishore were not the only 'veterans' to come a cropper in this rally, albeit not literally. Others who were pipped at the winning posts were the Fiat-driving team led by Dayanand Mandre (who has the reputation of having won practically every rally in the south at some time or the other) and Ravi Prakash who, in his Ambassador, was described to this correspondent as "a combination of race and rally driver."

So who were the winners and

what was it that "defeated" the veterans? First and second overall prizes in the four wheeler category went to the teams of Sudarshan and co. (running in an Ambassador) and Vasave Gowda and team (in a petrol jeep). Both teams consisted of "Chickmagalur boys" who, though they have participated before, haven't quite distinguished themselves in earlier events. So what helped them win? More than one participant, and incidentally many officials too, told this correspondent that the Chickmagalur boys had the advantage of "knowing the terrain" which in the circumstances appeared to have been a major advantage.

Even a "superb" driver like Mandre is reported to have remarked to

his friends that he was "just left behind" by the home teams and that he was "amazed with the speed" with which they were going. Was anyone suggesting foul play? Not at all, was the reaction. None was suggesting that the local boys had earlier intimation of the roads, however, there could be no denying that, being from the area, they had the advantage of knowing how to best tackle the terrain. Adds Gopinath Shiva, President of the MSCC and the man behind the show: "The home team invariably tends to have an advantage. However, you'll notice that this advantage had not prevented out-of-towners like Kadam from walking away with the first prize in the two-wheeler category."

As the person mainly responsible for tracking out this difficult terrain—which took participants on as much as nine-mile long stretches on one and a half inch jelly roads, and which knocked the stuffing out of fifty per cent on the initial 29 'starters' Gopi told this correspondent that fixing this route wasn't exactly an easy task. "This is the first rally being organised by the MSCC under the banner of the 'Coffee 500'. If we had come up with an easy game plan the challenge would have been missing and we would land up with no 'attraction' factor for next year. At the same time we had to ensure that the track wasn't too difficult so as to defeat all the participants. Today the boys are grumbling about the toughness of the route. But that's all in the game. Tomorrow, when the results are in and the celebration mood is on they will look back in appreciation and start planning their strategy for next year." As vice-president of the Karnataka Motor Sports Club (KMSC) which has been organising the 'Karnataka 1000' for the last eight years and a former rallyist himself ("way back

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# KEEPING TRACK



# RALLY NEWS

in the early 1950's") Gopi is all enthusiasm about the "success" of this maiden venture "I think we have some wonderful country here No derth for tough tracks We can do it over and over again " With just a few feeble grumbles against 'mistakes' in the tulip chart and absolutely no objections to the ultimate results, Gopi and others in the organising committee appear to have mustered up more than enough enthusiasm to make this "happen" year after year

Of course certain "faults" which

## FOUR WHEELERS

1. Sudarshan and team
2. Basave Gowda and team
3. Subhash Chandra and team
4. Gyanchand Kamat and team
5. Narayan Gowda and team

## TWO-WHEELERS

1. Gautam Kadam/Farooq
2. Irshid Ali and partner
3. Sitaram and partner
4. Rajan Joshua and partner
5. Arun Kumar and partner

## IV WHEELERS SECTOR PRIZES

- I Moddiah and party
- II Badrinath and party

## TWO-WHEELERS SECTOR PRIZES

- I. Shantakumaran and partner
- II. I Joseph and partner

had cropped up this time would have to be looked into and changed. this correspondent was told Being a maiden event, some participants had experienced the inevitable difficulties of having to deal with inexperienced marshals at the check point, a factor which had lost them some points on time wasted at these points This would be corrected by the next year for the simple reason that the marshals

would be more experienced by then, Gopi said He also agreed to what a few participants had suggested that some "tightening up" be done on the timing of the Rally at each sector Officials agreed that in the first sector most vehicles were running very late some as

problem of not being able to attract many participants However we do have the satisfaction of having got the cream of the motor sports crowd, Gopi told this correspondent Other inhibiting factors this year were also the ill timing along with the all attractive Anad in Delhi and Diwali in every home "Very badly timed, thats true," Gopi agrees

All said and done, however, 'Coffee 500' appears to have "clicked"



Cruising along

much as two hours This time was, however, largely made up at the second sector MSCC officials also agree that there will have to be some re-thinking on the timing of the event Sandwiched between the 'Karnataka 1000' in August and the 'Coimbatore Rally' in September on the one hand and the Mysore Safari in December and Channarayana rally, scheduled for January this particular rally faced the inevitable

And so till next year MSCC officials and other motor sports enthusiasts look forward to the monsoon and the rough vehicular traffic and all those other factors which tend to contribute to ruining the roads and mud paths of the Bababudan Giri Hill range or "coffee country" as it is more commonly called Slush, stones and wrecked roads—all those delightful factors which make motor sports rallies such "fun" each year

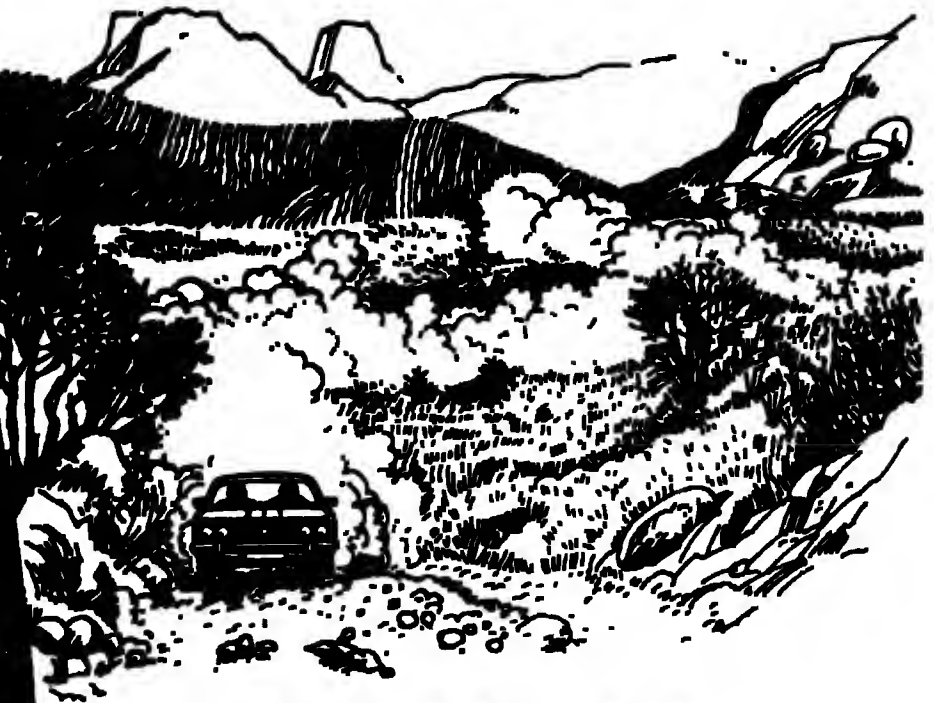
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# It's a lie

So think many boxing fans in the United States about SUGAR RAY LEONARD's announcement of retiring from professional boxing and the distasteful manner in which he organized a send-off for himself has damaged his image irretrievably, reports GEORGE K. GEORGE from New York.

**S**UGAR RAY LEONARD has quit boxing, not in style though. All along his career, he claimed that he had more class than his fellow boxers. To a great extent he proved it. In many ways he tried to prove that money was not his top priority. He even convinced the public of that. But his farewell to boxing was shameless and cheap. Sugar Ray Leonard has knocked himself out in the last round.

He organized a gala at the civic centre in Baltimore, the venue of his first professional fight. The decision regarding his boxing future was to be revealed at that spectacle on November 9. The Press and the television cameras were lined up. Boxing personalities ranging from Mohammad Ali to Mathew Saad Mohammad were there. The public were charged a one dollar or two dollar fee for admission. Those who wanted a seat in the special section had to pay \$100.

Leonard had said repeatedly that the final decision would come only at the so-called press conference. "The final decision was made tonight, right here in the ring," he proclaimed as he met the Press and the public.

That was a blatant lie. The issue of *Sports Illustrated* dated November 15 was supposed to come out with an article under his byline containing the same statement. "I am officially and forever retiring from boxing," the first paragraph of the article said. "By the time you read this, I will have made my announcement official and I hope it ends forever all speculation that I will come back to fight Marvin Hagler or anyone else."

The production schedule of the weekly reveals that Leonard provided the information at least a week before the show he put up at Baltimore. Why this hoax? Evidently, to tease the public and to cheat a few dollars from the pockets of the common people who love boxing.

Weeks before the announcement, the media in the United States had reported that Sugar Ray had decided to retire from boxing due to his eye injury. Still, he would send conflicting signals to the Press and the public. He was in Italy in October as

an expert commentator at the Marvin Hagler Fulgenico Obelmejias fight for the middleweight title. He clearly hinted that he and Hagler could make the biggest purse in boxing history. He said that the doctors had given him permission to fight again.

"I wasn't going to fight again, but my eyes are perfect," he told Hagler's manager, "I want that one big fight be there on the ninth."

The public was confused by now. It seemed as if greed had crept into Sugar Ray's head in the last minute. He could get anywhere from \$10 to \$15 million for a showdown with Hagler. The show at the civic centre took place as Leonard had planned. The speakers included Ali, Ken Norton, Eddie Mustafa Mohammad, Angelo Dundee, Singer Wayne Newton and Dr. Ronald Michaels who operated on Leonard.

It was a distasteful way of organizing a send-off for oneself. If people thought Ali disgraced himself by the manner in which he quit, Ray Leonard did even worse. The irony of the whole affair is that nobody believes Sugar Ray any more, especially after the *Sports Illustrated* article. Many believe that he will come back to fight Hagler, Aaron Pryor or Boom Boom Mancini, if the price is right.

One of the people who predict a Ray Leonard comeback is Thomas Hearns, his last major opponent. "Leonard has been a credit to boxing," said Hearns. "That's why I think he'll come back again. If he says he's quitting, it is a lie. As soon as somebody offers him a good pay, he will come back." He does not believe that Leonard will be satisfied with the millions he has earned. "Who ever has enough money?" he asks. "People always want more you never made enough."

For the time being Ray Leonard has convinced the public that he will not fight any more. "The feeling is gone. I will not come back. That's it," he said at the press conference. If he sticks to his word, he will be the first black boxer and one of the very few in history to quit as the reigning champion. He will go down as one of

the greatest in the history of the sport.

It all started with his Olympic gold medal at Montreal. He did not want to go professional, but his father's illness and two heart attacks suffered by his mother prompted him to do so. In his first fight at the civic centre he beat Luis Vega in the sixth round of a welterweight bout. His big moment came on November 30, 1979, when he knocked out Wilfred Benitez in the 15th round to win the World Boxing Council welterweight title in Las Vegas. In the following March he defended his title against Davey Green in the fourth round.

The only loss of his professional career came three months later at the hands of Roberto Duran in a 15 round decision in Montreal. In an effort to prove that he could take punches from a brawler like Duran, Ray forgot to fight in his own style. But on November 25 he would regain his title as Duran quit at the end of the eighth round in New Orleans.

In June 1981, he won the World Boxing Association junior middleweight title beating Ayub Kalule in the ninth round. However, he relinquished that title shortly, in order to keep his welterweight crown. In September he knocked out 'Hitman' Thomas Hearns in the 14th round. That enabled him to unify the WCC and WBA welterweight titles. Hearns had a 33-0 record with 30 knockouts as he faced Leonard.


Though he lost the fight, Hearns had hurt Leonard's eye. Already, during the training for the Hearns bout he had been hurt when the elbow of a sparring partner landed on his left eye. The battering he received from Hearns made it worse. On May 9, five days before his title defence against Roger Stafford, Leonard was operated upon at Johns Hopkins hospital, Baltimore, for a detached retina of the left eye.

By the end of October, Dr. Michaels pronounced his vision normal, but advised him against risking his left eye again. Leonard's wife Juanita had been urging him to quit since his victory over Benitez.

Sugar Ray Leonard has been known as a mad for television fighter. No boxer has managed his career so professionally and intelligently. As soon as he became professional, he made himself a corporation—Sugar Ray Leonard INC., managed by Mike Trainer, his lawyer and manager. For his debut itself, he is said to have made \$100,000. In his 33 fights, he received more than \$35 million in purses and several more millions have been earned in endorsements.

What next for Ray Leonard? He wants to enjoy life and work as a sports commentator.

Leonard can make millions a year without ever stepping into the ring. But if his last part is any indication, he could very well be back in the near future.



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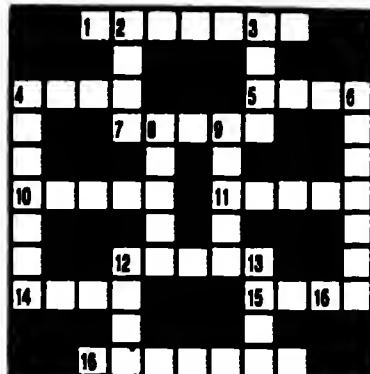
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# Crossword

MUDAR

174



## ACROSS

- 1 A term, reserved only for lovers, for an Australian batsman quite current (7)
- 4 A long distance runner from Kenya ends in a circle (4)
- 5 A famous table tennis player from Japan also ends in a circle (4)
- 7 A hospital assistant for a former West Indian cricketer (5)
- 10 Argentinian footballer who begins with a nil (5)
- 11 Miss Sood of Indian aquatics (5)
- 12 New Zealand middle distance runner who won the 800 m in the 1980 Olympics (5)
- 14 A Black official connected with the opposition to apartheid in sport begins with a question (4)
- 15 Singles in tennis is—person affair (1,3)
- 16 The third set or even the fifth of a tennis match is also referred to as the? (7)

## DOWN

- 2 A century is often called? (1,3)
- 3 Sports shoe manufacturers (4)
- 4 Woman sprint champion whose first name was Wilma (7)
- 6 Middle name of English batsman Roland Butcher (7)
- 8 Possibly India's greatest player before Padukone has his first name coming up (5)
- 9 Diminutive name for a Warwickshire pace bowler (5)
- 12 A goal defending act is also called a? (4)
- 13 A running section on the track, the crossing of which leads to disqualification (4)

Excellent: 18—17, Good: 16—15, Fair: 14—13.

# Question box

Sudhir Vaidya

D. Rabindran James, Madurai

Q Name the batsman who has hit the highest number of sixes in an innings?  
A Walter Hammond of England, who hit 10 sixes in his innings of 338 not out against New Zealand at Auckland in 1932-33

Q Who hit the highest number of runs in a single over in Test cricket? Give details

A Bert Sutcliffe hit 25 (6, 6, 0, 6 and 1) and R W Blair (6, 0, 0) of New Zealand in the eight-ball over off H J Tayfield of South Africa at Johannesburg in 1953-54

Q When, where and between whom the first official cricket Test played? Who were the captains and what was the result?

A The first official Test was played between Australia and England at Melbourne on 15, 16, 17 and 19 March 1877, when Australia won the Test by 45 runs D W Gregory of Australia and James Lillywhite of England were the rival captains in the said Test

Pranabjyoti Saitta, Biliase North

Q In Test cricket, what is the record for the most runs scored by a side in a day?

A The record of scoring the maximum runs in a day's play by a single side in that of 503 runs made by England against South Africa at Lord's in 1924 on the second day

Q Who has hit a century as a night-watchman, against whom and when?

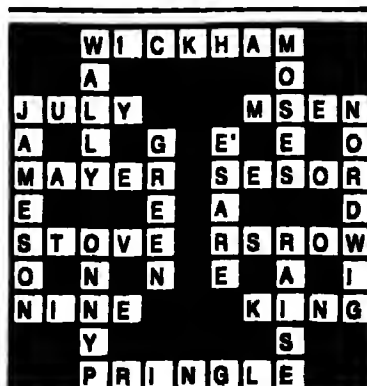
A In all, three nightwatchmen have scored centuries—Nasim-ul Ghani of Pakistan, A L Mann of Australia and S M H Kirmani of India

Swarup Mukherjee, Calcutta

Q What is the batting record of Sunil Gavaskar?

A In 79 Tests and 139 innings he has remained 10 times not out, scored 6951 runs, with 221 as his highest score, with 53.88 as his average, hit 25 centuries, 30 half centuries and seven ducks. He has been associated in putting century stands on 38 occasions—17 times for the first wicket, 13 times for the second, 4 times for the third, twice for the fourth and twice for the fifth wicket

## SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD 173



N. G. Chandak, Solapur.

Q Please give the career records of all the batsmen who have reached 6000 runs in Tests.

A G Boycott of England has aggregated 8114 at an average of 47.72 from 108 Tests, Sobers of the West Indies has totalled 8032 at the average of 57.78 in 93 Tests, Cowdrey of England has collected 7624 runs at an average of 44.04 from 114 Tests, Hammond of England has scored 7249 runs at an average from 58.45 in 85 Tests, Bradman of Australia has amassed 6996 runs at an average of 99.94 runs from 52 Tests, Gavaskar of India has compiled 6951 runs at an average of 53.88 from 79 Tests, Hutton of England has made 6971 runs at an average of 56.67 runs off 79 Tests, Barrington of England has scored 6806 runs at an average of 58.67 off 82 Tests, G S Chappell of Australia has aggregated 6291 runs at an average of 53.31 from 76 Tests, Harvey of Australia has 6149 runs to his credit made at an average of 48.41 from 79 Tests and Kanhai has made 6227 runs at an average of 47.53 from 79

# Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

## QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks

- 1 ---, the Moscow Olympic champion was born in the family of a Brighton butcher
- 2 "If I had been a goalkeeper I could have done a thousand beautiful dives preventing thousands of goals without getting recognition from my fans,"—observed
- 3 At present there are—national Olympic committees
- 4 The ---th Commonwealth Games took place in Brisbane from September 30 to October 10 last
- 5 Last summer a tour of New Zealand by the South African—rugby team created a big furore
- 6 Diego—Maradona is donning the colours of Barcelona this season
- 7 In—a penalty throw may be taken from any point on the opponents 4-metre line
- 8 Recently the world record-holder in --- had to leave sport following a car accident
- 9 IBF and the World Badminton Federation were amalgamated in ---
- 10 Luan Jin of China beat Rudy Herto—, ---time All-England champion

## ANSWERS

- 1 Steve Overtt, 800m
- 2 Pole
- 3 151
- 4 12
- 5 Springboks
- 6 Armando
- 7 Water Polo
- 8 Triple Jump
- 9 1981
- 10 eight



A. Ashok Mankad

I am an intuitive player and, when asked, I voted for an immediate finesse of the 10. This is what declarer had tried at the table, to go down, but the argument that the superior play was to lead low to the King was then put forward. I dismissed the idea tactfully in a few words, but then they wrote down all of the relevant combinations of A, J, 9, 8 and 7. Remember, it is only 3 — 2 breaks that will be of any help. Try it out yourself —

**A. Before the Australian tour, Randall's Test record was 33 Tests, 54 innings, four times not out, 1514 runs, with 174 as his highest score, 30.28 as his average, four centuries, seven half centuries and nine ducks**

**This week's quiz.** At game all, as South, you hold ♠ 10 4, ♥ K 10 9 4, ♦ K Q 6 3, ♣ K 9 5. North opens 2NT, you explore with three clubs and partner bids three hearts. How do you proceed?

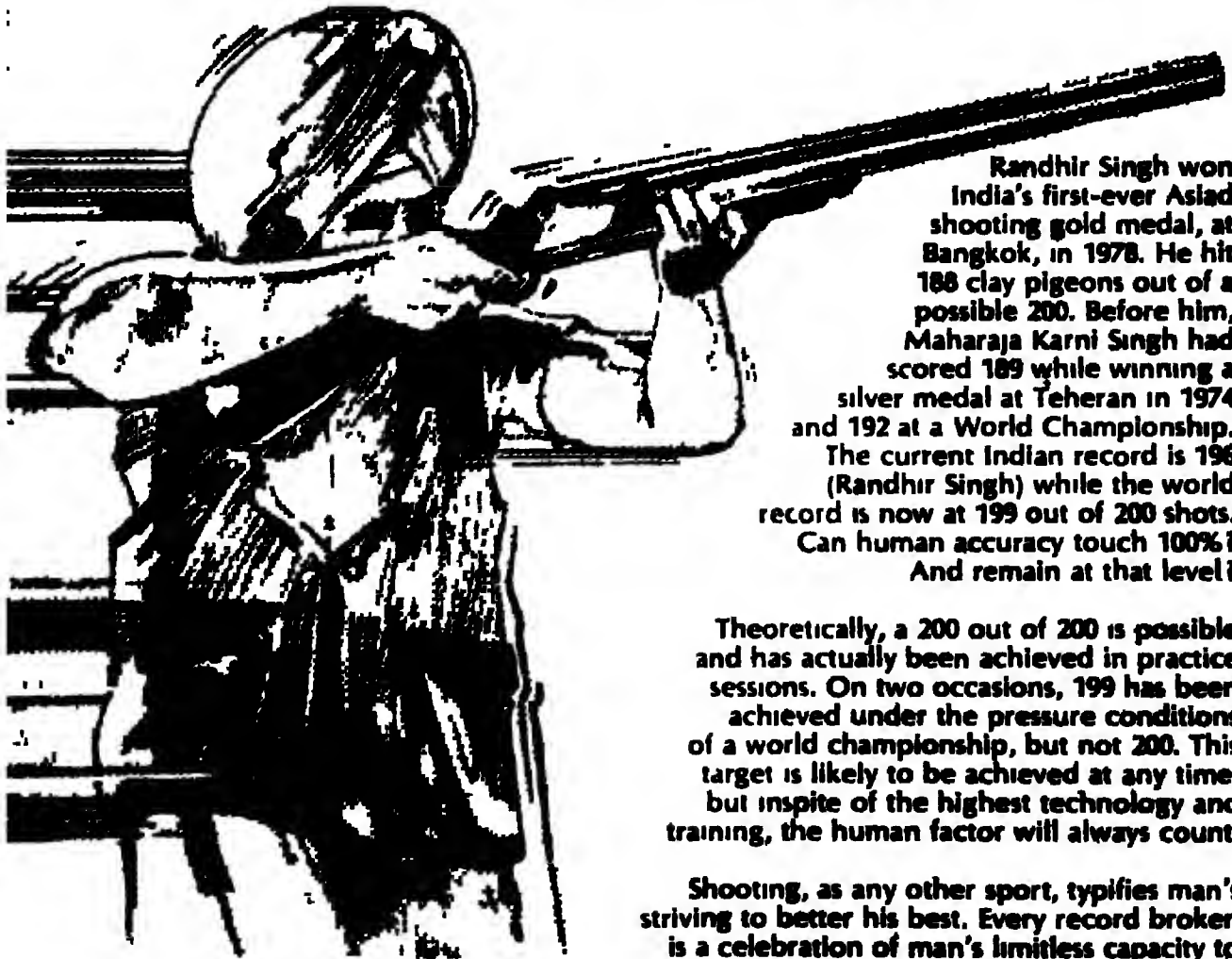
**Black**

A R G D Willis (captain), D I Gower (vice-captain), G Cook, I T Botham, N G Cowans, G Fowler, I J Gould, E E Hemmings, R D Jackman, A J Lamb, V J Marks, G Miller, D R Pnngie, D W, Randall, C J Tavare and R W Taylor. d J Insole is the manager

**Solution to No 1211 (Montreal).**  
 (1)  $\text{Kc} \times \text{P}1$ ,  $\text{R}6\text{S}$ ,  $\text{A}7\text{P}1$ ,  $\text{P}1\text{N}$ ,  $\text{B}8\text{N}$ ,  $\text{B}1$ ,  
 $\text{P}2\text{P}$  - mate by force! 1 Q-K5 (threat 2 R×P)  
 (a) 1 K×Q, 2 R-Q2, (b) 1 B-B5, 2  
 K-B5, (c) 1 B-B3, 2 Q-Q3, (d) 1  
 R-K3, 1 Q-K4.



## The 1978 Asiad trap-shooting champion hit 188 birds out of 200. Will human ability ever become 100% accurate?



Randhir Singh won India's first-ever Asiad shooting gold medal, at Bangkok, in 1978. He hit 188 clay pigeons out of a possible 200. Before him, Maharaja Karni Singh had scored 189 while winning a silver medal at Teheran in 1974 and 192 at a World Championship. The current Indian record is 196 (Randhir Singh) while the world record is now at 199 out of 200 shots. Can human accuracy touch 100%? And remain at that level?

Theoretically, a 200 out of 200 is possible and has actually been achieved in practice sessions. On two occasions, 199 has been achieved under the pressure conditions of a world championship, but not 200. This target is likely to be achieved at any time, but inspite of the highest technology and training, the human factor will always count.

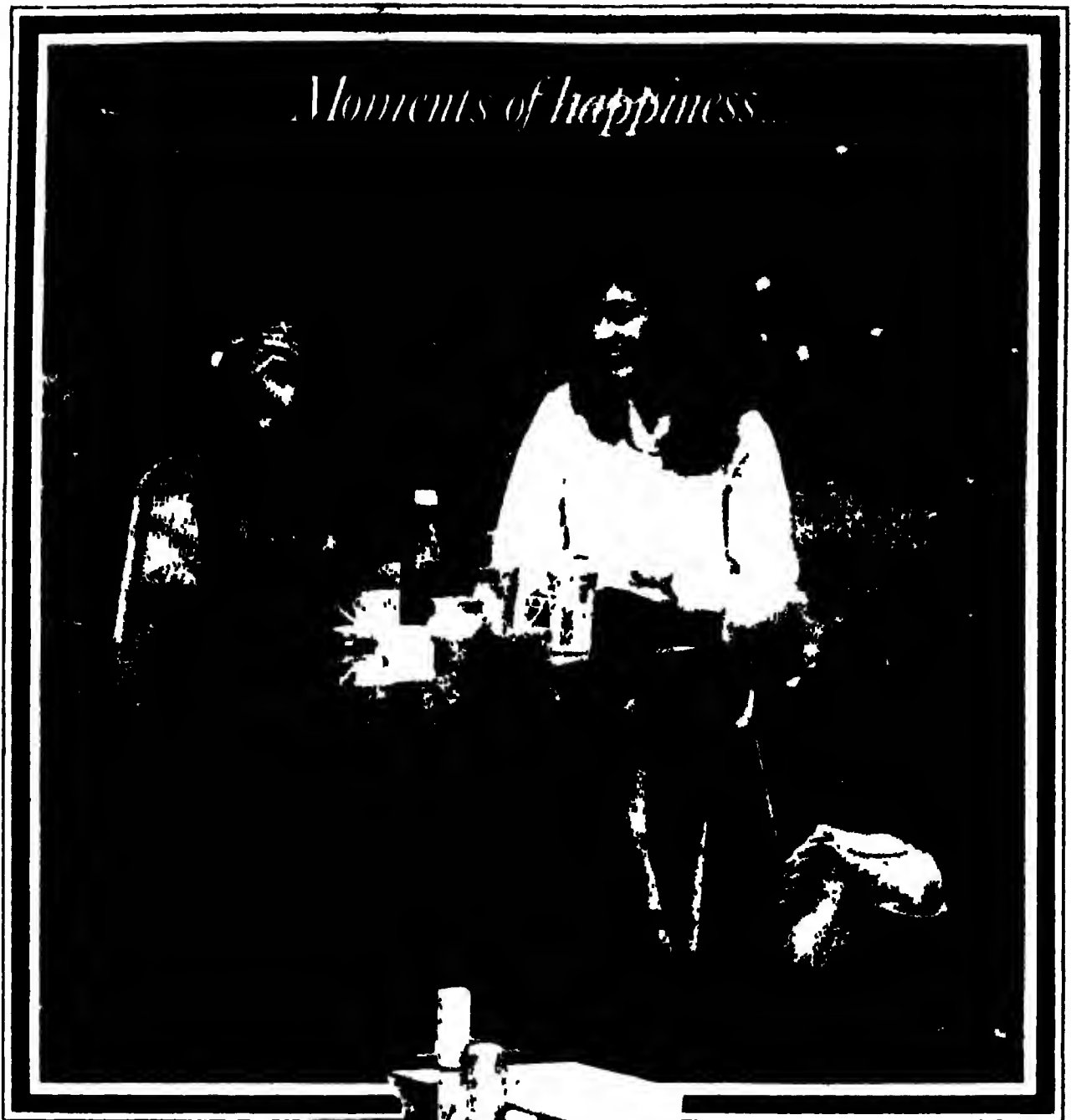
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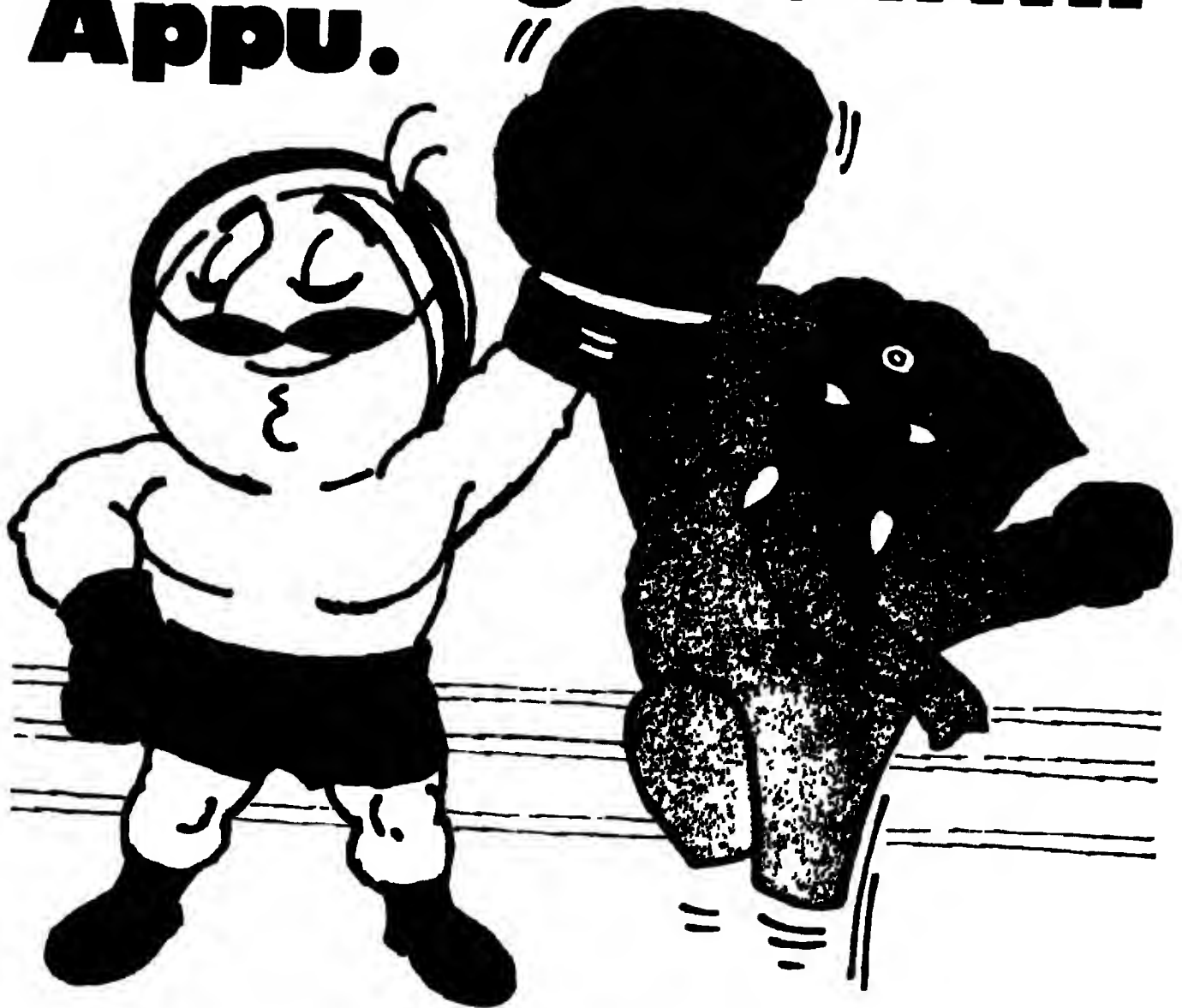
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# SPORTSW



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## **AIR-INDIA**

Official Carrier, IX Asian Games, Delhi 1982



Charles Borromeo's gold in the 800 metres final was only the start of a host of heroic achievements. ARJIT SEN, SUBHASH SARCAR and DAVID MCMAHON report from New Delhi on the Ninth Asiad

Colour transparency of Charles Borromeo by Nikhil Bhattacharya

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### Totally

IT is totally wrong to attribute Vishwanath's inclusion in India's cricket team to Pakistan to his relationship with Gavaskar. He does not have to be related to Gavaskar or for that matter to any other player, who happens to be captain of the side, to be included in the team. On sheer merit alone he can walk into any side of the world at present. Vishwanath's two knocks—one a classic double century at Madras and another a most timely knock of 107 at Delhi—against England last season clearly indicate that he is in fine touch. Players of Vishwanath's calibre need not be judged by runs they make in Ranji Trophy or Duleep Trophy or Iqbal Trophy matches or other inconsequential cricket ties round the year. Already he has crossed 6000 mark in Test cricket and only Sunil Gavaskar is ahead of him.

Since his memorable debut at Kanpur against Australia Vishwanath has never looked back and has gone on from strength to strength. One has lost count of times when he has come to rescue of the Indian Team. His inclusion will definitely be a great source of inspiration to Gavaskar and other members of Indian Team who face a challenging task against formidable Pakistan. I heartily congratulate the selectors for reposing full faith in Vishwanath by including him in the team to Pakistan.

M GOUTAM PRAKASH  
KHARIWAL,  
Bangalore

### Confusing

THE Ninth Asiad in New Delhi took the people in its grip long ago and they have been looking forward to the events with great expectations. Sports lovers in particular have been almost down with Asiad fever. In order to take advantage of the now

situation a number of publishers have brought out a few attractive books on Asian Games to feed them with the required statistics. Some of the important books that have flooded the stalls are (1) Asian Games A Complete Book of Records by Gopesh Mehra (Rupa and Co., New Delhi-110002, Price Rs 15.00), (2) Sangam Book of Asian Games by Ranjit Bhatia (Sangam Books India) Pvt. Ltd., Madras-500002, Price Rs 12.00), (3) A Complete Statistical Digest of Asian Games by S. Sanyal (Vikes Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Price Rs 15.00), (4) Athletics Records of Asian Games (Rupa and Co., Price Rs 3.95) and (5) Handbook of Asian Games (Rupa and Co., Price Rs 12.00).

But a comparison of the records and results of the past events lands anyone in a jungle of confusion and thus exposes the claims of accuracy and authenticity of the books. Every book differs from the other in the names of the winners, timings and distances of the events, the number of countries participated, medals tally, events being held or not, and in many other respects. It is no use giving examples of the errors for they are too many to enumerate. So these books can never be depended upon as reliable guides to write an article or feature or answer a question in competitive test or fill up a blank in a sports quiz.

NIRMAL KUMAR  
GOENKA,  
Sitamuni

### Invite umpires

IF ONE attempts to dominate the other there is trouble and the ultimate result is awful. So long as this attitude is prevalent at the BCCI it will become increasingly impossible to find an impartial and flawless method for the selection of the teams in the future. I feel that it should be made compulsory to invite some umpires into the commit-

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tee when the Indian team is chosen for Test matches. Because they are on the field for the entire duration of the match they are witness to all that goes on and can easily spot a good player when they see one.  
**SARIFUL HUSSAIN,**  
Dibrugarh

## More on East Zone

**W**HAT Mr Rao, with reference to the letter in the 27 October Issue, must understand is that making runs is not the only qualification of a player of getting selected in the East Zone side. In addition, a disciplined attitude and decent behaviour is also necessary.

Every League cricketer and umpire of Jamshedpur is fully aware of the tantrums thrown by some of the players mentioned in the aforesaid letter. Only recently, one of them incited by the other, went inside the Bihar Cricket Association office, threw down some files and abused the respected Mr Mustafi, Honorary Secretary of the Bihar Cricket Association. The reason for the outburst was because the player had not been selected in the East Zone team for the Duleep Trophy.

I strongly appeal to the BCA President to take action against these players, otherwise indiscipline will spread to other arts of Bihar cricket.

**A BANGABASH,**  
Jamshedpur

## Not a farce

**T**HIS refers to the letter by Prahlad Ghosh that was published in the issue of 10 November. He advocated strongly against the hosting of the Asian Games but let me tell him that the amount of Rs 700 crores spent for the Asiad will contribute more to the country than mere prestige. It will serve to give the Indian sportsmen a big boost. One should feel proud that India has at last done something unique in the field of sports. I do agree that this large amount could have been utilised for other purposes

instilled but it is too late now to repent. We ought to enjoy the fruits of our achievement instead.

**SANJEEV KUMAR MEHTA,**  
Calcutta.

## Haywire

**T**HE selectors of the Indian cricket team have once again gone haywire in their calculations. I just cannot imagine how the committee can justify the selection of B Sandhu and the omission of Ashok Malhotra. The selectors probably did not consider Malhotra's classic 116 not out that he hit in the Iran Trophy tie. Even Roger Binny would have been a better substitute for Sandhu as Binny is more of a utility player.

It also cannot be understood why three left-arm spinners should have been taken viz Doshi, Mamninder, and Shastri. It is reported that Pakistan will be laying wickets which will help seamers more than spinners.

I also oppose the appointment of Kapil Dev as the vice-captain. That India wrapped up the one-day series against Sri Lanka under his captaincy should not be the criterion. It was a combined team effort against a team that was inferior. The appointment of captains and vice-captains depends on experience. The place ought to have gone to Vishwanath.

**Tailpiece.** What is needed is a selection committee to select sensible selectors, who in turn should be asked to select the national side.

**PRADEEP V RAO,**  
Port Blair

## Wonderful Issue

**B**EING a regular reader of your magazine I would like to express my thanks and congratulations to your staff for bringing out a wonderful Asiad Special. It was released at the right time and the articles were highly informative. I hope that everybody remembers this issue for a long time.

**ROBIN CHATTOPADHYAYA,**  
Uttarpara



## Graveyards

**R**ECENTLY it has been observed that the cricket pitches are being made in such a way that they are nothing but graveyards of Indian cricket. We saw a dull and boring series against England in 1981-82 and were shocked to witness last season's Ranji final. The two sides were not able to complete two innings over six days' cricket.

I doubt whether a genuine pacemen will ever develop in India with these kind of wickets being prepared. More natural batsmen like Patil and Kapil will also be discouraged. Moreover, 80,000 spectators will not take the trouble of filling up the Eden Gardens. Are they doing it deliberately? What can be the reason?

**GOUR GOPAL GOSWAMI,**  
Budge Budge

## Request

**I** DON'T think that the Indians have forgotten the last disastrous to

England by the Indian (oops, Bombay) team which was polluted by the so-called selectors and our own captain Sunil Gavaskar. And now, when another series is just a few weeks away, I would like to request the selectors to avoid foulplay and regionalism which was so rampant on the last overseas visit. Seeing the might of the present Pakistani side, we should try to field a better team than the one which represented India last time. Otherwise, Pakistan will surely reduce us to pulp.

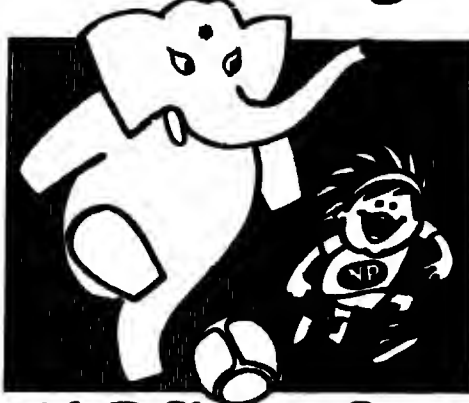
**MD JAWAID JABBAR,**  
Brajrajnagar

## Final say

**W**hat a pity that Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, has no stadium for a Test match!

**BIJAYA KUMAR PRADHAN,**  
**SANKARSAN SAMAL,**  
Hatamuniguda

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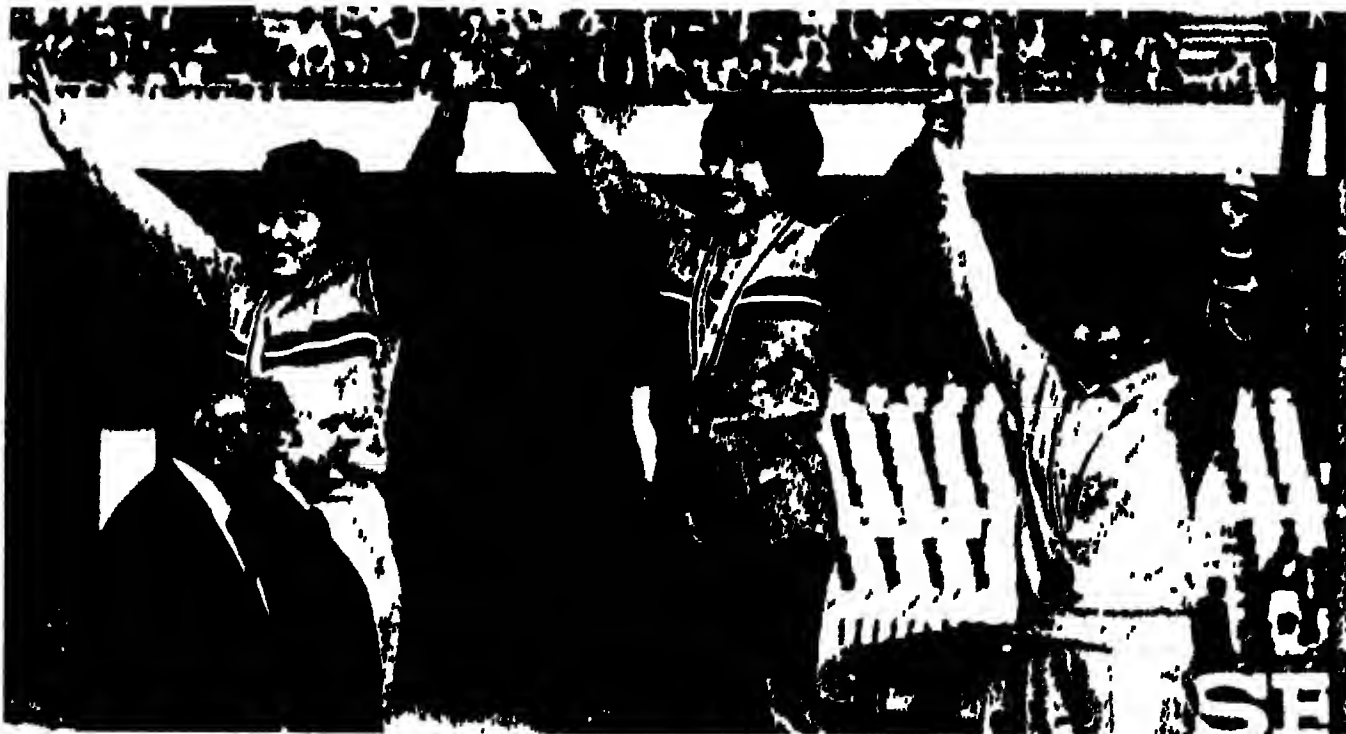
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# Our Asiad

*NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA captures the mood*



*China's Xuohui Li after setting a new record in the discus throw*



*The start of the 400 metres final for men*



*Loneliness personified Maxwell Trevor sits far from the disappointment*



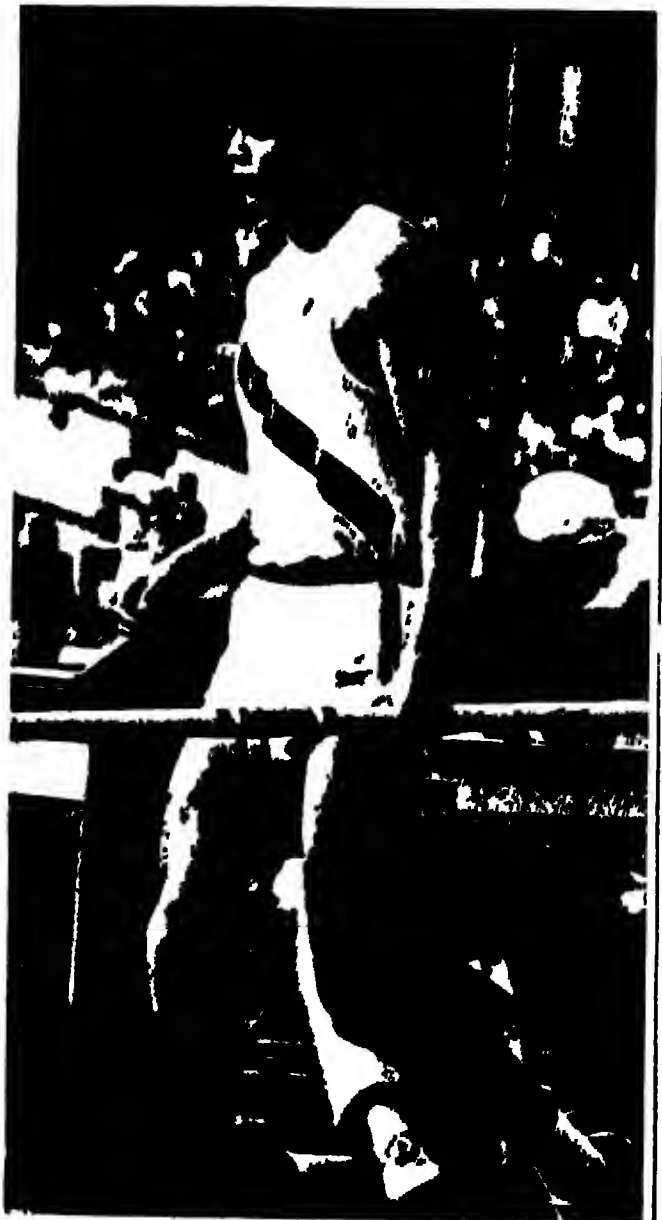
*Raghubir Singh after receiving his gold*



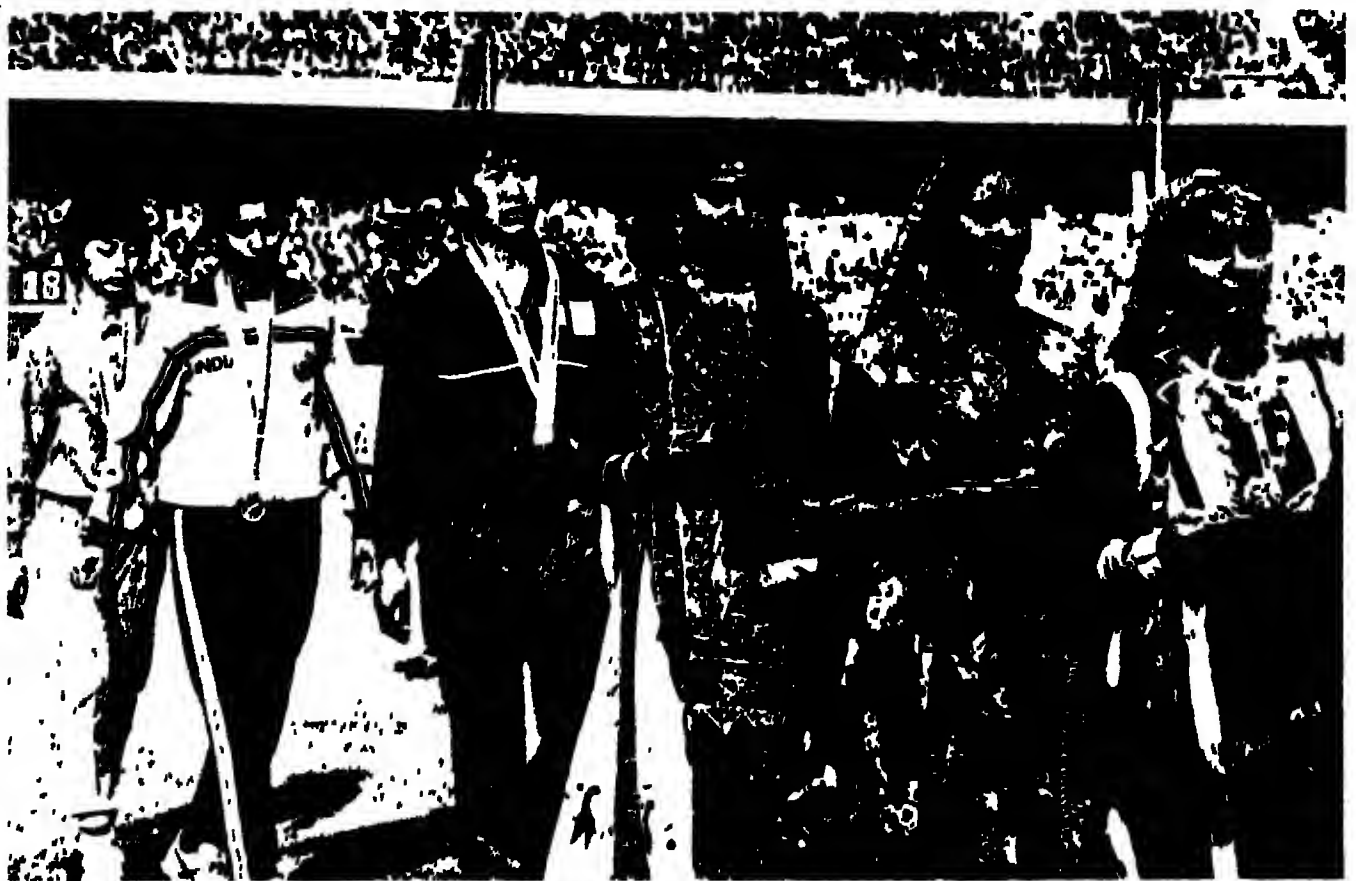
*Lydia de Vega exults after winning the 100 metres for women India's P T Usha (488) got the silver*



*Geeta Zutshi moments before she was beaten into second place*



*Japan's Takahashi, the winner of the pole vault gold*



*Valsamma (Centre) with an Asian record under her belt marches away from the victory stand*



*The end of the race for a Malaysian runner*

## ATHLETICS

**ARIJIT SEN, SUBHASH SARGAR and DAVID McMAHON report from Delhi. The photographs are by NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA**

**T**HE blue riband event of the Asian Games movement has always been athletics and so perhaps it was fitting that this event was held at the most extravagant, exquisite stadium in the capital. Other than the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, there could have been no more fitting venue for this discipline.

For an Indian, there was no prouder moment than when the tall Charles Borrowmeo ran his lap of honour after running the most incredible race of his life. Forgotten was all the criticism of the way

things were being handled, forgotten too the internecine politics and wranglings that weaken the federation. A total of 70,000 people who thronged the stadium that sunny November morning gave vent to their feelings in no uncertain terms as the gold medalist did his victory lap before them.

The roar that greeted Borrowmeo was one that had not even been heard at the massive Eden Gardens, Calcutta. As he ran round the track on which, only scant minutes earlier,

he had bettered the record of the legendary Sriram Singh, Borrowmeo was not concealing his elation. Neither was the crowd that had cheered him every step of the way to the gold medal that he would shortly stoop to receive on the podium. On a day when his name would go into the history books, Borrowmeo was the reason every man, woman and child in that gigantic bowl of a stadium raised their voices in a chant of victory that never died down. It was one long continuous roar that lasted several minutes as the hero said his thanks to the thousands who had literally willed him to the gold medal in the ninth Asian Games.

Each gallery rose in turn to greet the new champion, adding several decibels to the din of applause that shut out all else. Even the announcer who was trying to give an account of the proceedings on the public address system found his voice drowned in the prolonged roar. In the stands, they rose as one to pay tribute to the young man and the Indian tricolours waving in almost every section of the stadium turned the whole scene into a riot of saffron, white and green. For Charles Borrowmeo, there was no prouder moment than this.

As years go by, there will be more legends created on the turf and track of the Nehru Stadium. More heroes will be greeted by delirious crowds. But this was one lap of honour that will never be forgotten. As the applause reached its crescendo, time stood still. The man who says his hair did not stand on end is a liar. Even in the normally stiff-upperlipped Press box, veterans thumped their desks and clapped high above their heads.

For the Indians, there were several other moments of sheer pride. The hurdler M D Valsamma also ran the race of her life to take the gold in the 400m hurdles. This event, which was introduced only at the 1978 Bangkok Games, saw the first six runners in a field of eight break the existing mark.

For Valsamma, it was a dream race in which she led from start to finish and after the race, after the victory lap which she literally had to be pushed into doing, the shy young South Eastern Railway clerk, bit her fingernails shyly and self-consciously as she faced the Press.

It was all too confusing for this new champion. Fame was alien to her and now, here she was catapulted into the international limelight. All because of a mere minute (58.47 seconds actually) her life was changed.

Suddenly she was staring at a sea of faces and trying valiantly to understand the rapidfire questions that were being thrown at her. What was her reaction to winning the Asian Games gold? What were her future plans? Would she be setting her sights on Los Angeles? Valsamma was lost. Lost but happy.



Charles Borrowmeo acknowledges the applause after his victory in the 20 km walk



It was all so different. Five gold medals at the Bangalore Inter-State Athletics, a rare feat in itself, had assured her that she had trained diligently for this moment, even going so far as to predict that she would break the Asian Games record. It was no brash statement, just an affirmation of her faith in her own abilities and those of her coach, A K. Kutty.

Valsamma had said the record would be hers, and so it was. But the gold medal winner and holder of the record suddenly looked very lost and out of place.

To start with, she had not been at all happy when she learnt that she would be racing the final in lane eight. She had spoken of her apprehension—it was not quite a fear—that morning to the ever-present Kutty. He had let her have her say and then told her a story of a man called Edwin Moses.

Moses, the coach patiently explained, had set an Olympic record when he raced in lane eight. If he could do it, assured Kutty, so would Valsamma.

The message sank home. Reassured that she was not going to be a flop, after her record performance in the heats, Valsamma set such a scorching pace that even the next five runners bettered the record. Kutty, his pride spilling over, sat and watched indulgently as his brilliant protégé faced the Press and surreptitiously glanced at the new, strange medal grasped tightly in her hands, turning it over and over every so often as if surprised that it was there at all.

INDIA had earlier won the first Athletics gold of the meet when Chand Ram finished first in the 20 km walk. Although he was confident of winning the event, he was suddenly assailed by doubts when only five kilometres from home. A pain began developing in his side and, worried that it might be the end of the race for him, the lean, tall naik from Haryana was to explain later in Hindi—the only language he speaks—that he grabbed a sponge and wet his abdomen with it, all the while praying that nothing would go wrong. The simple young man's prayers were heard and he waved his gold medal triumphantly above his head not long later.

FOR Chand Ram, there was another distinction coupled with winning the gold medal, for he also broke the record set by Hukam Singh who had clocked 1 hr 31 min 54 sec at the 1978 Bangkok Asiad, where this event was held for the first time. Chand Ram was a clear winner, with a lead of 21 seconds over his nearest rival, Chung Tang Wong of China, who took the silver medal.

Chand Ram had maintained his pace from start to finish and his



Chong Il Kim of DPR Korea leaps to the gold medal in the men's long jump

team-mate Bir Singh remained at his elbow for the first three quarters of the race, but he was ultimately disqualified along with a Japanese walker, Tadahiro Kosaka. Chand Ram knew that he had the capability of winning the gold because, as he explained, he had been clocking one hour thirty minutes and under on a regular basis during his workouts over the last month.

A one-time hockey player, Chand Ram never once looked over his shoulder to watch the rest of the field. But he feels that he would have done even better if only his coach

Subedar Padam Singh, had been allowed to stay with him in the village. He is used to having the Subedar close by, advising him and generally instilling in him the fire to win. Yes, agreed. Perhaps, the timing would have been lowered even further if his coach had been with him.

The pole vault produced world class competition as expected and although the Indian Sunder Singh Tanwar did not finish with a medal at least he had the satisfaction of breaking the national record in this event when he cleared 4.70 metres.

The ultimate winner, Tomomi Takashashi, cleared 5.30 metres, while three others also cleared the five-metre mark. The silver medal went to another Japanese vaulter, Teruhisa Kamiya, while the bronze was claimed by Cheng Zhang. Zhang had actually cleared five metres at his first attempt, only to fail at 5.11 while Kamiya made sure of his second place when he cleared the same height. Japan, thus ensured that their dominance in this event remained unchallenged.

WHILE the pole vault was in progress, a loud cheer signalled another gold for India. This time it was the rotund, smiling Bahadur Singh who claimed pride of place in the shot putt. He was no stranger to the tension and pressure of competition at an Asian Games, for he was the defending champion and this was his third Asian Games. As a matter of fact, by winning the gold at Delhi, Bahadur Singh emerged as the third Indian to win gold medals in the same event at two consecutive Asian Games. At his first Asian Games, at Tehran in 1974, he had been disappointed when he finished second behind the amazing Djalil Kashmiri of Iran, who had set a record distance of 18.04 metres. Bahadur's Bangkok effort had not been good enough to erase this mark, but he did so in style at Delhi, putting the shot at a distance of 18.53 metres.

There was a moment of drama when the manager of the Kuwaiti team, Fed Al Thaidi, claimed that Bahadur must surely have been given muscle-building injections. Otherwise, he reasoned, there was no way the Indian could have putted the shot over such a distance. But Bahadur Singh's gold was in no danger as the Kuwaitis later withdrew the protest.

There was a surprise bronze for India in this event too. Young Balwinder Singh finished third when he hurled 17.66 and found it difficult to contain his glee on the victory stand.

INDIA's hopes of a gold in the 10,000 metre event rested on the shoulders of Shivnath Singh, but this was not to be. In what turned out to be the most amazing race, Shivnath went out in front but never seemed to make any real effort to force the pace at all. This could conceivably have cost him the race. With only two laps to go he was lying way back in the sixth position with no hope of catching those out in front. Surely, a sign that he was over the hill.

These last two crucial laps saw a sudden acceleration by China's Guowei Zhang and the Korean Won Keun Park. The Japanese, Kenji Ide, was challenged very strongly for the gold and in a truly classic finish it was Zhang who came first, closely followed by Ide and the Korean in that order.

The amazingly close finish of the 10,000 metres final



Mercy Matthew on the way to her silver medal in the long jump

TANUPADA BANERJEE

But there was disappointment in store for the Indian supporters. In the very next race, Geeta Zutshi was beaten into the second place in the 800m for women. As the holder of the title and a strong contender for the gold once again this year, she too began in front as Shivnath had, but she did not have the pace in the straight to ward of the challenge of Korean Yong Aeshang and with only about eighty metres to go, there was nothing that the Indian girl could do to prevent the gold from slipping out of her grasp. The fact that both runners lowered the Games record could have been little consolation to Geeta Zutshi, who walked to the victory, stand with her eyes on the ground.

Gopal Saini also finished with a silver in the 3000 metres steeplechase, beaten into second place by Japanese Tadasu Kawane. While Saini had led the field from the first lap of the race, the Japanese proved too strong and moved easily past the barefooted Indian. In a race where there was a good amount of pushing in the early stages, the Japanese finished ahead of Saini only because of the fact that he negotiated the hurdles better and was able to keep something in reserve for the end of the race. The presence of Sintaku Masanari of Japan would have lent even more glamour to this event as he had won the gold at Bangkok, but even then Saini could do nothing to keep Kawane away. The Japanese finished the race with a timing of 8:40.70.

Japan's Oshiumi Fujumori bettered his silver performance at Bangkok to take the gold in men's 110 metres hurdles with the record of 14.09 sec. China's Shen Sheng Zhang took the silver and Satbir Singh, who came third at the last Asiad, had to make way for his junior teammate

Praveen Jolly to take the bronze.

Gurtej Singh gave India a surprise bronze in the javelin throw when he finished behind Japan's Toshihiko Takade and Korea's Eun Nyung Yang, respectively. While the gold-medal winning Japanese threw a distance of 75.04 metres, Gurtej threw 73.50, which was only 12 centimetres short of the Chinese who finished second. The Japanese may have found it tough had China's Shen Mao Mao not been injured.

In the men's 4 x 100m relay, the first three teams all broke the existing Asiad record, but this time, the Chinese beat Thailand and Japan into second and third places, respectively. The winners finished with a timing of 39.82 sec.

There was never any real chance of a record in this event when the first couple of laps produced sub-par timings, but the wonderful finish, where none of the three in front yielded an inch of ground, amply compensated for a Games record.

China went on to win the gold in the discus, where defending champion Xiao Hui Li won the women's event with a distance of 57.24 metres, which shattered the existing mark—in her own name—of 55.92. Her teammate Xia Yan Xin won the silver while Japan's Harumi Suzuki took the bronze.

The women's 4 x 100m relay, expected, turned out to be a thrilling race, with the Japanese quartet of Emiko Konishi, Harumi Suzuki, Emi Akimoto and Junki Oshida setting yet another new Games record of 45.13 seconds. Thailand, the holders of the previous record, also bettered their own mark of 46.20 by 0.23 sec. India could well have won the bronze in this event but a fumble at the last baton change between Vandana Rao and PT Usha saw the quartet finishing last instead.

**BORROWMEO's** hour of victory has already been described, but there was never any doubt about his gold when he set a scorching pace of 52 seconds in the first lap. In his heats the day before he had finished first as well, but he gave the final everything he had. He ran the race in total command of the proceedings and dictated terms from start to finish. Earlier this year, he had clocked 1:50.5 at the Trial Games in September but his final timing of 1:46.81 was explained when he said without a trace of pride after the race, "I ran for my life."

India's M D Valsamma stole the hearts of the crowd on the third day of the athletics. She was a clear leader after the second hurdle, and though she was strongly challenged by the Japanese girl Yumiko Aoi in lane number three, the latter fumbled on the last hurdle to enable the Indian girl to break away. Valsamma's margin of victory was comfortable enough and her timing of 58.47 seconds was a pace so hot that the first six, including Hameeda Banu, broke the existing record in the name of China's Hsien Chen. Incidentally the 21-year-old star had been showing improved timings continuously over the last three months.

India's mainstay in the final of the men's 400 metres hurdles was Balasubramani and though he was among the leaders at the last bend, he faded to finish fourth. The pace was too strong for him and once he fumbled on the eighth hurdle, it was obvious that India's hopes of a medal in the event were over. Japan's Takashi Nagao and Shigori Omori took the gold and silver respectively, while Bahrain got their first medal, the bronze in this case, through Ahmad Jassin Hamada.

For the crowd, there was another disappointment as far as the Chinese

went. They had come to see Liu Yuhung, a world class long jumper, in action. But he faltered repeatedly on takeoff and managed only two clean jumps, of which the second one gave him the silver at 7.89 metres. Chong Ikim of Korea cleared five centimetres more to take the gold, but he was definitely lucky to finish first.

Mercy Matthew had the same problem in the women's long jump, but still bettered her own performance to record 6.26 metres, which was good enough to give her a well-deserved silver medal. The gold in this event went to China's Wenen Liao with a distance of 6.41 metres which was a new Games record.

Another outstanding personality of the Games was hammer thrower Shigenbu Murofushi, who was participating in his fifth successive Asiad. He displayed tremendous technique in his throw and it was a pleasure to watch him outdistance his younger opponents with the greatest of ease. More slender of build than most of the other contestants, this university lecturer was unperturbed by the competition and to watch him in action one would have thought he was merely limbering up for a morning's exercise, such was the fluidity of his throwing. Although he has a silver and four consecutive Asiad golds to his credit, this bianding contestant has never been able to make an impression at any of the Olympic meets he has attended. India's Tagbir Singh, but could only look on helplessly as he lost the bronze by the slender margin of only 2 centimetres to China's Yung Xie, while Murofushi broke his own record, throwing a distance of 71.14

metres.

Yet another Indian contestant fell by the wayside in the women's shot putt. Bakhtawar Khambatta could do nothing to match the talents of the leaders and though she was lustily cheered every time she walked up for her throw, she finished last in the field of five. Despite the fact that she is the reigning champion, she was outdistanced by Vijayamala Dutta who placed fourth. Yet another record was toppled in this event when Li Meisu of China threw 17.77 in her final attempt, which is not far behind the men's mark in the name of Bahadur Singh.

In the 3000 metres for women, Shashikala Ramchandran, the mother of two children, did not finish the course. The outstanding performer in this event was Kim Ok Sung of Korea, who led from start to finish, while the other India qualifier, Umadevi Gowda, finished last.

The women's heptathlon gold went to Ye Peisu of China as expected, the Chinese girl finishing with 5423 points. Bangkok silver medalist in the pentathlon, Angie Mary Joseph suffered a recurrence of an old injury and finished fifth, while Reeth Deviah came last.

"Susumu Takano of Japan was unbeatable" said the Indian 400 m representative Premchandran after the race. Indeed, Takano ran an amazing race to finish with a record time of 46.65 in the heats going on to better this performance in the final. Yet Takano had to admit after the race that the Indian was no pushover and as Premchandran said, he should have refrained from setting his own pace in the event. Thus he had to be content with the silver and received

his medal from none other than the legendary Milkha Singh.

In the women's 100 metres, the main battle was obviously going to be centred around India's P.T. Usha and the much-publicised Filipino sprinter-cum-filmstar, Lydia de Vega. But, unknown to the general public, Usha had a nagging problem. She had fallen at the finish of her semi-final the previous day and was not feeling one hundred per cent fit.

At the outset, the two were evenly matched, for Usha's best timing of 11.7 seconds exactly matched that of de Vega. Neither girl had a very good start, Usha taking some time to come into the recoking and only figuring among the leaders in the second half of the race. De Vega, for her part, was caught slightly off guard, she said later, by the starter's pistol. She had just started to inhale, she said, when the shot sounded and before she knew it she was struggling to win.

From the stands, however, it did not look as though she was struggling, for she was a clear winner at the finish line. "I thought my best challenger would be the Japanese girl," she said. "because Usha's timing had not been too good in the heats. But in the last ten metres of the race I was in front and I didn't think any of the others would catch me. I did not break the record but 11.76 was good enough because I had a problem with my right leg, which I injured on my second day in Delhi."

As far as the 100 m for men went, it was a close battle between Rabaun Pit, the Malaysian, and the Korean Jang and it was some time before the official result placed the Malaysian as the winner of the gold.



Yet another sensational finish: Rabaun Pit (282) of Malaysia wins the gold in the 100 metres final for men, beating Korea's Jang (249).



# FACE TO FACE AT THE ASIAD

**Name:** RABAUN PIT  
**Nationality:** Malaysian  
**Discipline:** Athletics

**I**t took less than eleven seconds for Rabaun Pit to carve a place for himself in history

To be exact, it took him 10.68 seconds on the afternoon of November 28, 1982. He ran what might prove to be the race of his life to finish with the gold medal in the most glamorous event on the athletics card, the 100 metres for men.

In an exclusive with *Sportsworld* less than an hour after his victory, he tried to convey, albeit through an interpreter, what it all meant to him.

"It means so many things, that I can feel them all at the same time, yet I cannot pinpoint or describe one of them. I guess you could say I'm happy, but even that would be a classic understatement. It's all there, deep down inside," he explained, pointing to his heart. "But I just do not know how to explain what it means to me."

"It didn't really strike me till I was up there on the victory stand, looking at the crowd in this gigantic stadium. I was saying to myself 'This is it. This is the moment you've been waiting for, training for all the years.' And yet there was something so unreal about the whole thing."

"I just couldn't be too sure whether or not I was dreaming or whether this was actually Pit up there on the victory stand as the medal was draped around my neck, my mind went back to the day I was given the Malaysian flag to bring here to India, to the Ninth

Asian Games. As captain of the Malaysian team, it was my job to look after our national flag. When it was handed over to me in Malaysia, it was a very emotional moment. They told me 'At least bring back a medal, Rabaun' and the words remained framed in my memory."

"And now, here was the same flag, that I had brought all the way from my own country, being unfurled in front of me, in front of so many thousand spectators who were all standing to attention as the Malaysian national anthem was being played." "All that emotion was just too much for me. I am not ashamed to say that there were tears running down my cheeks as I stood there. I am a man, twenty-six years old, but I cried on that victory stand."

Had he fancied himself as a medal winner to start with? He shrugged before he answered. "No, not really. I expected one of the Thai runners or the Indonesian to do well but I did not rate my own chances very high. Suchart Jaesuraparp, the Thai sprinter had clocked 10.53 in the heats while I had only managed 10.65. I was not too satisfied with my own performance but I was being worried by an Achilles tendon problem. This was a recurrence of an old injury actually. The problem first cropped up in Australia but after treatment, I managed to overcome it."

"But the same problem cropped up once again here in Delhi. While working out on November 17, I had two runs over 200m, both of which were clocked at 22 seconds. But after the second one, I knew that something was wrong. Ever since

then my coach Nashattar Singh, a former Asiad javelin gold medalist, has been giving me hot and cold compresses to help ease the pain, but the heel is still black and blue."

"So when I failed to return the best timing in the heats, I didn't rate my chances very high in the final this afternoon, as a matter of fact, I did not know at one stage if I would ever be fit enough to run the 100 metres. But the compresses did help and before I knew it I was out there taking my place along with other finalists."

There had been one false start to the race, but when it eventually got under way, it was no easy task at the finish line to differentiate the first three. Initially, the tall Korean runner, Ufme Kien Jang, thought that he had won the race and continued down the track, his arms raised in a victory salute. He looked up towards the rest of his teammates in the stands and clasped his hands high above his head. Camera-men began to gather around him and it was only when an official shook Rabaun Pit's hand that the attention on the media shifted to the shorter man.

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# HOCKEY

## Negi let India down

**P**akistan thrashed India 7-1—an Asian Games hockey final record. There was no excuse for India's shabby performance. The defence was under pressure from the beginning and it crumbled like nine-pins. India began with a flourish and took an early lead through a penalty stroke by skipper Zafar Iqbal. The spadework to earn the push was done by Mohammed Shahid when he scooped the ball with the Pakistani goalkeeper Shahid Ali pushing it for umpire Clark to point to the dreaded spot. And that was, perhaps, the only thing India could execute well in the entire match.

Thereafter, it was the Pakistan forwards who weaved circles around the Indian defenders and scored at will. The man who helped Pakistan most to emerge on top was the Indian custodian Mir Ranjan Negi. Thrice he rushed up to the middle of the circle quite unnecessarily and conceded goals. Without doubt, with the sole exception of Joaquim Carvalho and to a little extent left half Gurmail Singh the others did not know what to do whenever the Pakistan attackers went on the offensive.

The strangest part was that none of the Pakistan forwards shone on the day. But they were all good as a team and things were made easy for them by our fullbacks Rajinder Singh (Sr) and Manohar Topno. After the lemon time Topno and substitute Vineet Kumar were seen playing parallel which is a crime in our days.

**GURBUX SINGH**

Coming to the Indian forwards Mervyn Fernandes was a complete flop and Shahid, apart from making a few individual attempts, gave only two passes to leftwinger Zafar. Shahid was all the time trying to bustle through or give a parallel pass to inside right Mervyn, but only to fail.

It is high time that we concentrated on our defence and saw to it that the defenders are able to withstand pressure from formidable sides like Pakistan, Holland, West Germany and Australia.

In the second half India did earn four penalty corners—all within five minutes—and if we had reduced the margin 2-3 at that stage we could have hoped to come back into the game. It was a pity that we utterly failed to convert even one of the ten penalty corners we obtained. Both Rajinder and Vineet were mainly to blame. It was only late in the game that India put pressure from the right flank where Charanjit did send some good centres and himself took two flying hits at goal which were thwarted by a confident Ali.

The first goal Pakistan scored to restore parity was off a overhead pass. Both the fullbacks were found parallel and Kalimullah literally waltzed into the goal with the ball, while Negi was found roaming near the centre of the D. The second goal was beautiful. The ball was de-

flected high into the net by Hanif Khan after a free hit by Kalimullah. Manzoor Jr then sent in the third off a through pass. Once again Negi was found stranded.

After the change of ends, India had spurned four penalty corners, but thereafter Pakistan started the deluge of goals. From a counterattack Samiullah gave a pass on a platter to Hassan Sardar who gave Negi no chance.

Later Hassan seemed to have pulled a muscle but he was prepared to give another hard blow to Indian aspirations and rattled through the Indian sticks and bodies to score a beauty. After that he retired to the sidelines.

The final blow came off a penalty stroke which Kalimullah took successfully. However, in the eleventh minute after the breather India had earned a stroke which Zafar wasted. Had he succeeded, his side might have been in a position to fight back.

The Pakistan forwards not only tore apart the Indian defence but also assisted their rearguards time and again. Their goalkeeper and the defenders can definitely take as much credit for the victory as their prolific frontliners.



**PERSONAL  
PREFERENCE**

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## HOCKEY

**T**HE main focus on Monday, November 29 was the semi-final encounter between India and Japan. The hosts did well to take a 6-1 lead at half time. Indeed, they were sitting pretty at half time and seemed to have lost their appetite thereafter. It also remained to be seen whether or not India would surpass the 12-1 tally that Pakistan recorded over the same opponents.

But after interval India only got one more goal, while conceding another as well. Till then it seemed that India had struck the right rhythm to carry them past Pakistan's dozen, but that was not to be.

In the first half with the sole exception of Merwyn the rest of the forward line moved well particularly Shahid, Zafar and Charanjit. Centre half Carvalho played better in this match and also fed his forwards more consistently and accurately than in previous encounters. Gurmail, too, did not let anything go.

Mention must be made of Zafar's first goal, which was a real gem, and this was the signal for the floodgates to open. Though Japan got the equaliser there was no stopping the Indian thereafter and they put in four goals in the short span of only seven minutes.

Things were altogether different in the second half, however. As they had done in the first half of their pool match against Malaysia, India came out on a surprisingly lethargic note. Japan slowly gained the upper hand and this can be gauged from the fact that both sides scored one goal each in this half when so much was expected of the Indians.

Merwyn showed a tendency to move in to the centre forward's position even though there was enough room for him on the right. Zafar's moves were a pleasure to watch and as long as he was in possession of the ball, the Japanese defenders had their work cut out.

Our deep defence did not perform up to the expectations in the second half and the defenders were often beaten by the fast moving Japanese forwards. However, the pity for Japan was that they had no one capable of driving the advantage home, apart from Takamori and Numa. And at times Sakamoto was dangerous.

In the course of the match both teams were awarded eight penalty corners. Of these only one was converted by each side, Rajinder (sr) doing the needful for India and Nakabeppu for Japan. Both Japan and India also received penalty pushes, Zafar doing the scoring for India and Takamori for Japan. But it

must also be placed on record that there were some strange decisions in this match which though not partial one way or another, was inexplicable.

Japan fielded goalkeeper Kiyotake for Aoyama after India had scored five goals but India's scoring rate slowed down thereafter mainly due to our own faults rather than any inspired saving on the part of the second goalkeeper. The Indian custodian was tested, but saved two good shots off penalty corners and generally looked more comfortable than his Japanese counterpart.

**A** NEAR capacity crowd thronged the National Stadium to see Pakistan, the champions in pool 'A', take on Malaysia, who had finished runners-up in pool 'B'. But Pakistan's game in the semi-final was decidedly sub-standard.

It may be recalled that Malaysia's performance against India caused many a flutter. Again, in the semi-final, they proved that this had been no flash in the pan.

Perhaps, one of the most difficult things to do was to contain the Pakistani forward line and the Malaysians proved that they were more than equal to the task as they bottled up the opposing forwards effectively. What was more exasperating for the Pakistanis was the fact



Manzoor Jr scores against Japan as Samullah and Saeed Khan look on

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Physical hockey at its height during the Japan-China encounter

SCHOSOP SHANKAR

that they received no help from the centre half or the right half and therefore had to fend entirely for themselves. Added to this was the absence of Hassan Sardar, as the Pakistanis were anxious to ensure that their spearhead would be fit for the final. This left Hanif Khan literally a passenger throughout the game. He could neither combine with Manzoor (jr), nor could he feed left winger Samiullah with any competence.

The Pakistani right flank too had its problems with Manzoor playing below expectation.

The only redeeming feature for Pakistan was Samiullah's second half centres that split the Malaysian defence. But there was a nigging worry there too. These shots were not converted and on two occasions they were wasted by Sayeed Khan and Manzoor (jr).

In the Pakistani defence line, Sayeed Ahmed put up a tremendous performance and Syeed Ali in goal defused some tricky situations for Pakistan. Qasim Zia was shown the green card by the Kiwi umpire Clark.

The Malaysian defence played extremely well, with the outstanding performer of the day being right back Keith Seong Foo. He not only succeeded in bottling up Samiullah, but also succeeded in feeding his forwards. The one mistake he made saw the wily Samiullah dash in from

the top of the striking circle, move goalwards and send home a beautiful reverse flick, to give Pakistan their second and last goal of the match. Earlier, the first had been scored by Manzoor (sr) off a penalty corner.

The Malaysians should thank their goalkeeper Fazil Zainal who performed effectively between the posts. One particular save deserves mention. Pakistan had earned a penalty push and Zainal's tactics, though questionable, paid dividends. He moved out and this probably distracted Kalimulla whose push was then brilliantly saved.

Pakistan thus entered the final as expected, but Malaysia had every reason to celebrate as well.

**I**NDIA literally resorted to target practice against Bangladesh in their Pool 'B' encounter. Whether the dozen goals they eventually scored has boosted their ego sufficiently or not is difficult to say, but even the man in the street will tell you that Pakistan are going to be a different kettle of fish altogether. As has been proved before, such a massive victory against a nondescript outfit can lead to complacency and this is something that the Indians must avoid at all costs.

Coach Balbir Singh once again rested Rajinder Singh (sr) who was

nursing an injury. This was obviously, so that he would be fit for the D-day. Vineet Kumar, who replaced him, proved that he is capable of springing surprises. Although he is generally regarded as inferior to Rajinder, he played a hard game, converting three successive penalty corners to become the second Indian to notch up a hat trick in this tournament.

There was a particular trend that ran through India's matches against Malaysia and Bangladesh as the home team opened their account on each occasion through a penalty stroke, taken on each occasion by captain Zafar Iqbal. Against neighbours Bangladesh this was so, though India had to wait 12 minutes before they got their second goal. The ball travelled between the centre and the goalmouth, but as India proved unable to increase their margin—albeit temporarily—the crowd grew restive.

The next two goals came off rebounds from the goalkeeper's pads. The luckless Bangladesh custodian, Adil Khan, then had a torrid time as the Indians pounded him from every conceivable angle. India's fourth goal scored by Shahid bears mention. He dribbled past a host of defenders and scooped the ball into the net to complete a fine individual performance. He was unfortunate to have missed a hat trick, yet he was India's highest scorer in the match.



*Tension in front of the Chinese goalmouth as the Japanese forwards press home an attack*

with no less than four goals to his credit

Vineet rose to the occasion nobly and this was, perhaps, his best international performance to date. But fate played a hand in his hat trick. Manohar Topno was brought in to convert the all-important penalty corner instead of Vineet Kumai, but the former undercut the ball and Vineet got his third off the next penalty corner.

Zafar Iqbal and Jagdeep Singh got two each, while the entry of Merwyn Fernandes and Syed Ali added more punch to the Indian attack. Try though Bangladesh would, there was nothing they could do to prevent the onslaught and never did they look like reducing the margin.

The same day, Japan asserted their superiority over the Chinese in their Pool 'A' match, thus coming in sight of a berth in the semi-finals. The attacking duo of Numa and Takamori, especially after half time, created panic in the Chinese defence, but the Japanese seemed to have difficulty in finishing.

At the interval, Japan led 2-0, both goals being the result of penalty corner conversion. The next two goals were scored by Takamori, through a push, and Sakamori, off a rebound respectively. Altogether, the Japanese seemed much swifter and capitalised on this advantage by cutting in unrelentingly to leave the opposing defence in tatters. But most of them that came to nought because of the Chinese custodian Bai

Dhan Zhu who saved the situation on no less than six occasions. Numa and Takamori must have had a trying time against this plucky goalkeeper who seemed to be everywhere at the same time, but even Bai Dhan could not hold off the attack by himself for an indefinite period of time.

Although they are generally written off as a weak team, China displayed the tendency to fight, a necessary ingredient in the highly competitive world of hockey today. They managed to force two penalty corners, but their drawback was that they had no one in their ranks who could be considered competent enough to convert such important opportunities at this level of the game. China used the long pass and hard-hitting tactics but the Japanese were never tested by these tactics.

But when it came to playing Pakistan, Japan found themselves completely out of their depth. The former put in a dozen goals, while conceding only one, to prove that they could still sneer at the Japanese. However, this march marked the first goal conceded by the World Cup champions.

Japan adopted the ploy of short passes, which slowed the game down, much to the discomfort of the Pakistanis. But the superior side proved that they were capable of handling their opponents. When Japan found that their tactics were not bearing any fruit, they resorted to long hits and breakaways but this was what precisely Pakistan had been waiting

for. This was the point at which they went on a goal-scoring rampage and the scoreboard ticked over at regular intervals. The Japanese defence began to reel under the persistent pressure and cross passes from the two flankmen Samullah and Kalmullah, left the innies to do the damage.

What was more dangerous for Japan was their own blunders, often critical and erratic clearance by their defenders. This, coupled with a distinct lack of coordination and shoddy trapping, led to their downfall.

When Pakistan had reached the half dozen mark, Hasan Sardar pulled a muscle and for the first time, the attacking lineup was changed with Sayeed Khan coming on instead. He, too, scored a goal but shortly afterwards came Japan's first and only goal of the match. Full right back Nakebeppu cracked home a sizzler off a penalty corner, but that was the end of the cheering for Japan, especially when one considers that they conceded a self-goal to complete the mortification.

Malaysia must have been delighted to take the field against whom they wiped out with a 7-0 margin of victory. From the word go they showed that they meant business and laid siege to the Hong Kong defence for prolonged periods. But Hing Choi Anthony, the plucky and talented Hong Kong custodian, once again proved his mettle to keep the margin of victory restricted.



*Rajbeer Kaur dictates terms to the Singapore defenders*

Malaysia used close passes and displayed clever stickwork and the 3-5-2 Hong Kong formation was kept busy in trying to ward off the threats of their opponents to think about mounting any attacks of real strength. Christopher Nunis, Kevin Christopher and Murugesan were the trio who harried the Hong Kong defence constantly and the fact that the latter could not withstand the pressure was proved when the last two goals were conceded off penalty pushes.

Hong Kong also lost their next match, against Bangladesh, going down by a 2-3 margin. The latter team showed that they had indeed benefited greatly from playing in this tournament, but Hong Kong still finished ahead of Bangladesh on goal difference although both sides had the same number of points.

Bangladesh played a systematic game, intermingling short crisp passes with long, defence splitting hits, while their defence stood firm and resolute. But they had their goalkeeper to thank for their victory. It was he who saved two penalty pushes and averted dangerous moves on no less than four occasions to give his side the breathing space they required so desperately.

India ended their pool engagements with their match against Oman. This match, too, smacked of a mere practice session and India ended their pool matches with a record tally of 37 goals 'for' and only one 'against'. Rajinder Singh was again

rested and Vineet Kumar did duty instead to notch up yet another hat trick.

However, the attacking line of the host country lacked punch in the first half with the exception of Zafar. If the three goals scored in the first half were any indication, Oman's defence was shaky. Seven more followed in the second half to complete the 10-0 whitewash and once again India opened their account enough with a penalty push. Oman also earned a penalty stroke soon afterwards. But skipper Abdul Hussain put no power behind his try and Naga nullified the challenge.

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY

**T**HE Indian girls did not wait for their male counterparts to walk away with the gold in the inaugural year of the women's hockey competition. They won with consummate ease and with points to spare. In the round-robin league, they won all five matches, while the Republic of Korea and Malaysia tied with seven points each, the former winning silver by virtue of a better goal difference.

The Indian girls began better than the men's team, exhibiting far better cohesion and not tiring despite setting up a hot pace from the start. They drubbed Hong Kong 22-0 in the opening encounter and could well have beaten India's Olympic record of 24-0. In fact, they met little opposition except from a tenacious South

Korea, who managed to score first against the hosts before fading out 1-5. They took stock of Malaysia 4-0 and Japan 3-0 to assure themselves of a gold and then were overwhelmed by the presence of several dignitaries, including the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi on the final day and only managed to score three—all in the first half—against Singapore. Mrs Gandhi had, for a brief while, seen India beat Japan early in the competition.

South Korea, who emerged second, were rewarded for their diligence and hard work. Whenever they were not playing, the girls would take notes on other matches in progress. Their players combined well, but their only drawback was that none of their players had good stickwork.

In this sphere, Malaysia and Japan were superior, the former having better finish. In fact, Japan has a squad to be watched, they should do better in the years to come. The other two teams in the competition, Singapore and Hong Kong, were miles below these four, but the former did well to collect two points from the luckless Hong Kong. The only satisfaction the latter had was of scoring one goal in the entire championship.

For the Indian team, three players stood out—Rajbeer Kaur, Selma D'Silva and Naxleen Madiaswala, all forwards. The babe of the side, centre-forward Rajbeer, scored sixteen goals in all—the highest in the competition, followed by Selma, with 12.



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# SOCCER

IX ASIAN GAMES 1982 DELHI

**A** PART from athletics, football is easily the most popular sport at the Ninth Asian Games. All through the preliminary matches, one noticed empty stands. Yet, enthusiasm for the game was not lacking. By some mysterious process, a large chunk of tickets were not available to the public. As a result, while there were yawning spaces between spectators, there were several hundred who bought tickets at a premium.

But apart from that, there has been a rich fare of football. The standard of Asian soccer—as played in most countries including India—is not very high. But the varying styles, the different approaches to the game, were fascinating to watch. There was also a lot of drama and excitement.

The biggest surprise of all was the exit of the Republic of Korea from the championship. Joint holders with their northern counterparts four years ago, South Korea had maintained a high level of proficiency all these years. Their training had been intensive, they had toured several countries and when they heard Uruguay were participating in the first Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Cup tournament in Calcutta, they, too, pitched camp there. They were narrowly edged



India versus China. Kartick Sait dodges past left back Wang Fan.

beat PDR Yemen, but were upset by Iran in a match that could have gone either way. They had another chance. When they met Japan, they took the lead in the first session and missed two setters before Japan came storming into the game. They took the two chances they got and sent South Korea packing. The latter had paid the price of poor shooting.

Then there was the case of Syria. They had begun by using their bodies to excess, but gradually settled down to providing quite a few thrills. But in their last match, Syria surprisingly went down to Thailand.

There was also Malaysia. Like India, the authorities found it difficult to get a set squad to practise for any length of time. Ultimately, three juniors practising abroad were sent an SOS to return home and join the senior squad. Naturally, when they came here, they did not expect to create any miracles. When they lost to China and then to India, it was still acceptable to the coach. But when the team went down to Bangladesh, it was near catastrophe. The Malaysians, who had suggested that India not be invited to future Merdeka competitions, should now seriously think of shutting shop for some time and contemplating on the future of their own brand of the game.

out by China but this only made them practise harder. The team was sent to Spain to watch the World Cup matches, where again,

video tapes were made of crucial ties to use them for training purposes.

But all this, to no avail, South Korea managed to



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## FOOTBALL

**T**HERE was a different kind of problem in the quarter-finals which, after much deliberation was decided as a knock-out and then evened out to just one ground—the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium—when some of the qualifiers refused to go to faraway Model Town and play at the Chhatrasaal.

By a strange quirk of fate, India faced the weakest team in the eight squad line-up—Saudi Arabia. What they did there was another story, but, on the other hand, the two socialist countries DPR Korea and China were pitted against each other and Middle East nations Kuwait and Iran battled in unfriendly combat.

What Iran did during and after the match should bring shame on that country's unsportsmanlike footballers. If the security men had not intervened, the footballers—turned hoodlums would have manhandled Indian referee Melvyn D'Souza. And all because a perfectly legitimate goal had been scored against them. Actually, the Iranians realised they were the inferior team even before the match ended and so were looking for outlets to vent their frustration.

The quarter-finals also saw the end of the all-conquering Japanese, who had sprung the biggest surprise of the entire tournament. Although the game is quite popular in that country, as an organised sport it comes well below several games including,

believe it or not, baseball. The latter is the number one sport in Japan.

And today, more than ever, it is being proved that modern football is filtering through to Asia and the countries quickest to adopt them are the ones showing current success. There is, after all, no substitute for ball control, accurate passing and positional play.

### DPR Korea vs China

**T**HE Chinese, who had played in Calcutta for the Nehru Gold Cup, had exhibited then that they had two major defects. Their approach to attack was very laboured—without in any way ruffling the opposition by sharp passing bouts or quick inter change of positions—and their shooting was poor. Virtually the same players came to Delhi, and one saw that they hadn't improved. Their defence was better than in the past, but a costly lapse in the 59th minute gave the match to DPR Korea.

This is not to suggest that North Korea were in any way inferior to the Chinese. In fact, they had the speed the Chinese did not and displayed better cohesion among their players. They also attempted to check the Chinese in midfield itself, but this ploy allowed the Chinese two scoring positions.

The Koreans missed the target on at least four occasions but sealed China's fate with a brilliant header from onrushing flankman Kim Gwang Ho.

### Saudi Arabia vs India

**E**VERYTHING was set for extra-time, an eventuality the Indians had anticipated and practised for. Sudip Chatterjee came in place of a dizzy Compton Dutta with less than three minutes to go for full time. But, in the 88th minute, the Saudis lobbed the ball into the Indian penalty area and Parmar sent a weak header just outside the box—without looking to see if there was any Indian to pick it up. As it turned out, not one but two Saudis were there and one literally ran into the ball to send it cannoning into goal. Custodian Ganguly had no chance.

The game itself was mediocre, with the Saudis displaying slightly better ball control than the Indians. India, in fact, played almost as poorly as in their opening encounter against Bangladesh. The defence did a good job except for the fatal moment and a particular word of praise is due to Compton Dutta and Manoranjan Bhattacharjee.

The midfield was lacklustre, with only Prasun Banerjee playing well. If successful, the attempt at goal by him in the first session could have changed the tide of the game. Emulating his goals against Bangladesh, he took a shot which beat the custodian but just sailed out.

The long work-outs for the Indians had not worked wonders. The only success of the coach was in galvanising a good defence. The midfield was moving purely on the experience of



Bhaskar displays his acrobatic skills



*Bidesh Bose finds himself thwarted by China's Wang Fan*

Prasun Banerjee while the entire forward line was a joke.

Bidesh Bose and both C B Thapa and Kartick Sett were terrible on the wings. But Shabbir Ali took the cake for the best football-walker in the tournament. Except scoring a goal, he did absolutely nothing of note.

In goal, Bhaskar Ganguly did a good job after initial fumbling. Brahmanand, too, acquitted himself well in the match he played so far.

#### **Kuwait vs Iran**

**T**WO quick bouts of exposure to top-level international competition has transformed Kuwait into a respectable member of the modern football club. They have realised that intensive possession play can unsettle any team and a deliberate change of pace can lead to goals. The main problem the Kuwaitis face is their on-target shooting.

On the other hand Iran, having come up with the ignominy of defeat at the hands of unheralded Japan, were intent on proving their better

muscle-power. In the end, two warnings and a goal were all that they took home.

The actual game saw the Kuwaitis keep the ball to themselves for very long stretches, gradually wearing down the Iranian defence. They missed three chances of scoring. But Iran had the easiest chance a minute from fulltime. They muffed it and Kuwait gratefully packed in the match-winner midway through the first half of extra time.

That sealed the fate of the Iranians but took the lid off their tempers as some of them charged towards referee Melwyn D'Souza. Let us see what action the Asian Football Confederation takes on this issue.

#### **Iraq vs Japan**

**A**NOTHER extra-time tale meant the exit of Japan, the cynosure of all eyes. They played fast, positive soccer against the Iraqis, who chose to return the compliment. But perhaps this was a tactical error,

because in the earlier matches, Japan had studied their opponents and then dealt the knock-out punch.

Even so, it turned out to be a game of mixed fortunes for both teams starting out in cold weather well after 9 p.m. The exchanges were sharp but positive chances were few. In fact both defence lines played well.

It was an inexplicable error on the part of the Japanese captain and custodian, Taguchi, which led to the only goal of the match twelve minutes into extra time. A long lob by Saad Mohammad was chased by Hussain Mohammed.

Taguchi did not come out quick enough and collided with the Iraqi. Even as the ball was sought to be grappled by the custodian, Aamad Mohammed slammed in the match-winner.

This match has proved that good training and proper selection of players are the only ways a team can progress in the international field. This is a lesson India must learn now.



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# SNIPPETS

**O**N the night that Kuwait and Iraq clashed at the magnificent Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium the Press box was invaded. About five or ten minutes after the football match began, several other members of the Kuwaiti contingent suddenly appeared as if from nowhere. There must have been about 30 to 40 of them, clad in their dark-blue track suits with the name of their country emblazoned across their backs.

But about a minute after they sat down, they began making the most unearthly din, making it difficult for some members of the Press to concentrate on the task at hand. The Kuwaitis had brought with them two drums and a bugle and they clapped to a rhythmic drumbeat, while the bugler blew strident blasts from time to time.

The clamour reached a crescendo as Kuwait scored their first goal, but by this time, the uniformed personnel—of whom there seems to be no dearth—decided that things were getting out of hand. The Kuwaitis were first asked to put the drums away, which they did, and to keep quiet, which they didn't.

Some Pressmen, upset at this 'invasion' protested on the grounds that the noise makers should have been sitting in their own enclosure. The policemen agreed that this made sense and the Kuwaitis were asked to move. They got up with ill-grace and began to file away, but someone suddenly discovered an interpreter and things were settled diplomatically. The Kuwaitis stayed on in the Press box, but behaved themselves thereafter.

**B**ALWINDER SINGH may have won the bronze medal in the men's shot putt, but he earned another distinction also in

a less desirable way. After he had received his medal and waved to the crowd, he committed—albeit unwittingly—a minor faux pas.

It is customary for medal winners to turn for the raising of the three flags and to stand to attention for the national anthem in question. But Balwinder continued to stand as he was. As if that was not bad enough, he then went one step further by putting his hands on his hips and planting his feet firmly apart.

Perhaps the only reason the crowd refrained from booing him was that he was one of the more popular athletes on view.

**T**HERE was some more humour on the opening day of the athletics programme. With the gruelling 10,000 metres entering the final stages, all attention was riveted on Shivnath Singh as the gap between the gallant Indian and the leader widened. The announcer suddenly said over the public address system that there were two laps remaining and added something to the effect that there was still plenty of time to go. But barely were the words uttered when the bell rang, signalling the last lap and the crowd, quick to spot a mistake, roared with laughter.

Also in the same race was the plucky—if slow—runner from Yemen, Abdul Kabir-al-Dibab. He was in last position from start to finish and was lapped three times by the front runners, but by the end of the event, he was something of a hero, simply because he stubbornly refused to give up.

Long after the rest of the runners had completed the race, Dibab approached the finish line, threw up his arms triumphantly and began to run off the track. But amused officials waved him back, indicating that he had not

completed the race. So off he trotted and as he neared the finish line once more on his next round he began to slow down with a look of relief on his face, only to be sent round again, much to his amusement and that of the crowd. The same thing happened a third time and when the Yemen runner finally completed the race with a massive grin on his face, he was given a round of applause that would have done even Henry Rono proud.

**E**VEN Appu had trouble getting up in mornings. We are speaking, of course, about the massive creature that is suspended beneath the yellow Asian Games balloon at the Nehru Stadium.

Every night the balloon and Appu were brought down to earth literally; every morning Appu had problems getting his feet off the ground, once again literally so. The first few occasions saw those entrusted with the task literally sweating to complete the job, but Appu soon learnt what was expected of him. And elephants, they say, never forget.

**T**HERE was a Nadia on show at Delhi and she won a gold medal too. But this Nadia was not a Romanian, nor was she a gymnast. She was Nadia-al-Muttawa, who won the individual show jumping event of the equestrian competition at the packed Harbakah Stadium.

And as if the gold medal was not enough her sisters Gemilia and Barah took the silver and bronze medals in the same event, respectively. The three girls are the daughters of the Defence Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Salem-al-Sabah.

In unison, they rode a lap of honour as a capacity crowd gave them a thunderous ovation. And as if on cue, on completing the lap, they jumped off

their horses and hugged each other with glee. As their coach explained later, it was a tremendous performance, considering that the girls had only taken to the sport two years ago and the Asian Games here at Delhi was their first exposure at the international level.

**S**HORTLY after the Pakistan-Malaysia hockey encounter there were thousands of people milling around the exits of the National Stadium. As the teams filed past on their way to the transport that would take them back to the Village a few heads turned as the onlookers looked up in curiosity. But there was no real reaction to their presence. A few feet away on the opposite side of the footpath there appeared to be a slight scuffle. A policeman's baton was seen raised above shoulder level and there was some shouting. The policeman's baton thereby began to take an active interest in the proceedings till it was discovered that there was no real cause for any alarm. There was no fight. It was just that people leaving the stadium were crowding round someone trying to come in. That person was none other than the ever popular Dara Singh whose name is something of a folk legend in almost every Indian household. Police officers literally had to clear a path for him as he tried to weave his way past his admirers. Even then it was not easy going for the great man clad simply in trackshoes, a pair of faded jeans and an old sweater. He had to acknowledge the cheers that greeted him and had to pause every few steps to shake hands with people in the crowd.

**O**UTSIDE the Nehru Stadium on the rest day of the athletics there was a rather odd sight enacted. There was a Mer-



# SNIP9ETS

cedes Benz that was refusing to start and the harassed driver was on the verge of giving up when a lot of people in the vicinity volunteered to help. Could they do anything, they asked. "Yes," said the driver. They could help by pushing his car till he managed to get it started. Mercedes Benz copywriters would have shuddered at the sight of the grand limousine being thus handled. But one of the onlookers proved his powers of observation. He announced to no one in particular that the car bore an AGSOC sticker and like much of the AGSOC business had to be pushed into motion.

**L**ONG before the Games began there was a great deal of speculation in the Press and otherwise about the problems faced by swimmers and divers at the Talkatora pool. However, the first few days of the Games went through in a pleasantly warm weather. But trouble was just round the corner. The mercury soon began to drop and while it was all right, provided one was in the sun, the breeze was enough to cause problems for anyone, let alone a swimmer or diver, in just a brief swimming costume. It was particularly tough on the divers as some of them literally had to be rubbed down to get their circulation back to normal and we presume that the fact that some of them shivered on the diving boards was due to the cold and not just nervousness.

**T**HERE was a spot of humour in the makeshift interview room at the Nehru Stadium on the day the petite Lydia De Vega won the gold medal in the 100 m sprint for women. Hitherto journalists had found it very difficult if not impossible to speak to either athletes or coaches and interviews

were out of the question. After a number of journalists had aired their views on the subject and done so at appropriate places things became much easier under the new arrangements. Winners were introduced to the Press immediately after the presentation of medals. This went quite smoothly until the medals

were awarded to winners of the 100 metres for women. With the entry of the much sought after sprinter from The Philippines things were becoming a little dicey and the Pressmen found themselves in a quandary. They wanted as much time as they could get with Lydia. But the person who occupied the hot seat at the

time showed no signs of moving or even wanting to move even though the Press were no longer asking her questions. Too embarrassed to tell her they did not want to speak to her any longer the Press sat and collectively bit its nails pondering its next move. Ultimately an Australian journalist and an Indian reporter hit on the solution and in unison they called out, "Thank you, thank you." But the previous winner still showed no signs of moving. It was only when the enterprising duo finally escorted her to the door that the coast was clear for Miss De Vega.

**I**T seemed that the main thing in the capital was to show that you were in some way or other connected with the Asian Games. How is this done? Simple. Everyone down to the ushers, security people and even those remotely connected with the stadia stalls had to wear laminated identity cards around their necks with different colours denoting different grades of importance. People seem loath to take these cards off long after the events for the day were over. You could walk into any restaurant or hotel in New Delhi and find yourself surrounded by scores of people who were trying to say, "Look at me I am part of the Asian Games."

**A**PPARENTLY it was not just spectators who caused problems for the policemen on duty at the various stadia in the capital. Halfway through the Games there was an incident involving an inter-police bout of fist-cuffs. There was an altercation over the absence of a sticker on a police vehicle that was entering the Nehru Stadium and before any of the onlookers knew what was happening one of those involved had a bloody nose.

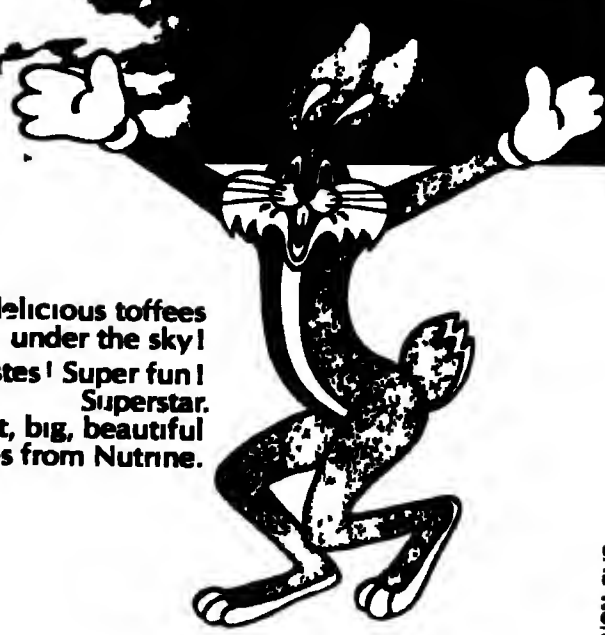


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## TABLE TENNIS

**C**HINA showed their superiority in no uncertain terms when they bagged both the men's and women's team gold medals. However, their world champion Guo Yue Hua suffered two defeats at the hands of Japan's Saito and South Korea's Kim Wan. China's number two Cai Zhen Hua narrowly escaped being beaten by Manjit Dua. This possibly indi-

cates that the gap between China and the other countries is being narrowed down.

In the finals, China defeated Japan by five matches to one and at one stage it looked as if Japan would stretch the world champions to their utmost limit. Saito started in fine style when he saved five match points to beat Guo Yue Hua in the first encounter. However, former world champion Japan's Seiji Ono failed to take advantage of a good

start and succumbed to Chen Zin Hua in the second tie to put things on par. The other encounters were virtual washouts except for the one game which Abe managed to pull off Chen Zin Hua.

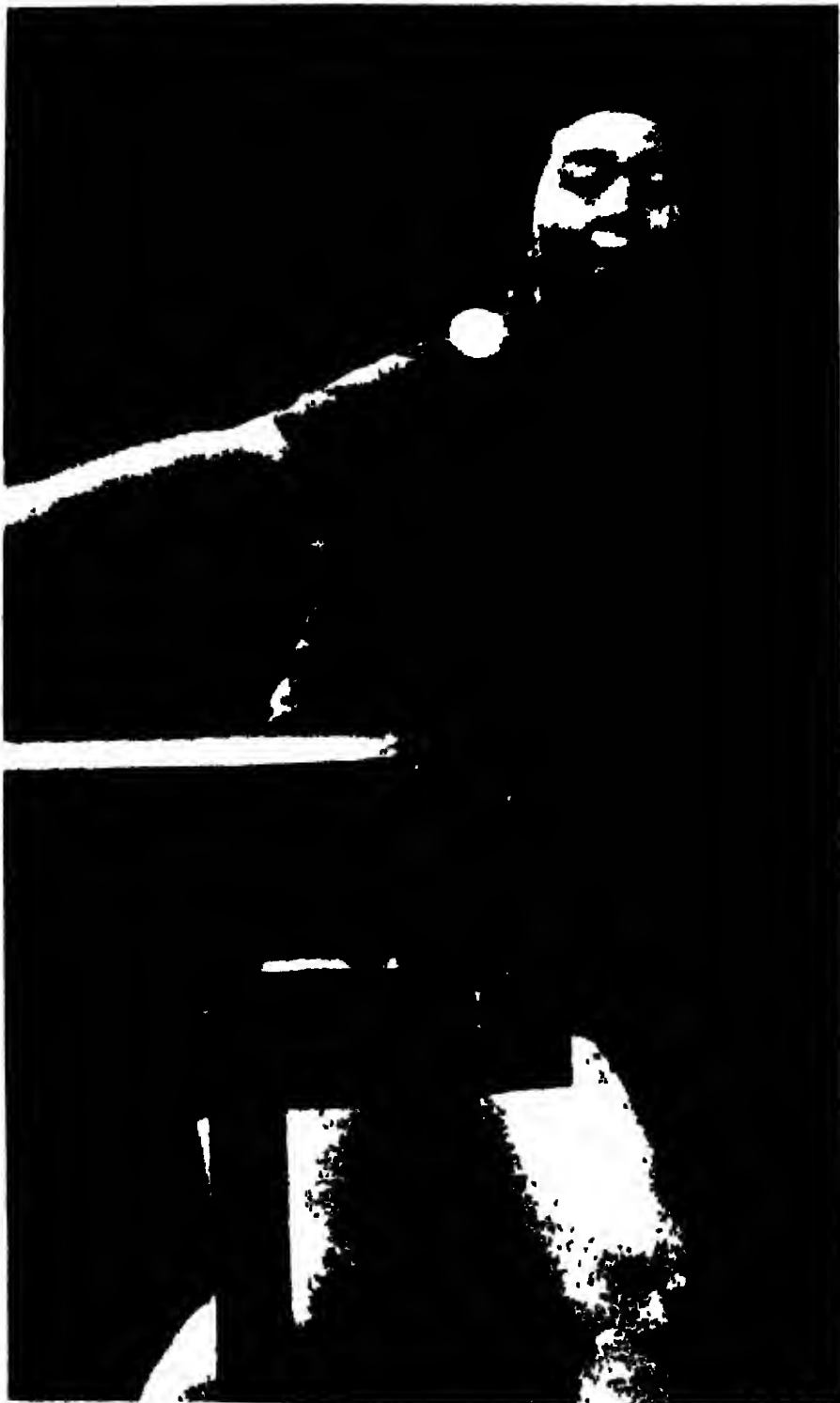
Japan, who had earlier dropped only one match on the way to the finals, did pretty well. They defeated both the Koreans by identical margins of 5-0. In fact, their only tight came from underdogs India. At one stage of the match Japan was leading by two matches to one and Manmeet Singh had Ono in a precarious position in the fourth match. Had this match come through, I earnestly believe that we would have extended Japan at least to 5-3 if not win them.

The one match which we won was when I defeated Nuka Zuka 23-21 in the decider. The use of anti-spin, I feel, has definitely improved my game and is a distinct advantage when I play with people using pimped rackets. Nuka Zuka is one such player and earlier on in Japan I had defeated another similar player—Japan's number three.

South Korea performed impressively and came third. They had the satisfaction of once again defeating their erstwhile rivals DPR Korea by five matches to four. Strangely this was the same score by which they had beaten DPR (North) Korea in the World Championships at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. This created a lot of confusion in the stadium. Huge numbers of supporters of both the countries were engaged in a battle of the vocal chords cheering for their teams. Salt was further rubbed into the North Korean wound when their women's team were defeated by South Korea by three matches to two. Interestingly South Korea did not field their world number seven and their best player Lee Soo Ja. This showed that South Korea have really made rapid strides in this game and their 700 day coaching programme to go to the top of world table tennis is paying them rich dividends.

**D**PR (NORTH) KOREA did not impress much and although they are one of the good teams in the world, I do not think it will be possible for them to finish among the first six in the ensuing World Championships at Tokyo. They could not match strides with China and Japan and really struggled to put it across India. Their technique is a bit out dated and they still play far away from the table and their backhand is mediocre. Undoubtedly their service and footwork are two plus points, but to go up in world standards is difficult without a good backhand.

Indonesia fielded a young team and could not make much impression and Pakistan which had all along been troubling India failed even to take a match from India this time. We performed creditably to finish fifth in both the men's and women's



Tong Ling defends

BONDLEP LAKSHAN

team events. The countries which finished behind us were beaten decisively and I must make special mention of our 5-0 victory over Pakistan. We always had difficulties in tackling them and once was even beaten by them in Bombay recently. This time we showed our superiority by not conceding even a single match to them.

Manjit Dua became the toast of the player, Cai Zhen Hua (world No 2). Dua led 10-3 and 16-10 in the decider but could not hold on and lost by the proverbial whisker. However, it was a memorable performance and will live long in the memory of the lucky ones who witnessed the match.

Cai Zhen Hua had a lot of problems against Manjit's high toss service and third ball attack. In fact, I can't remember even one instance when Cai blocked Manjit's drive. The service of Zhen Hua which had posed problems to the greatest players of the world, was handled extremely well by Manjit Dua. Later on when I asked Manjit whether it would be possible for him to receive his service so well if he played Cai the next time, Manjit said, "It was a dream performance and I don't know how I played so well."

Manmeet Singh contributed his bit, but did not impress much. Many people feel that he has not improved much after the Calcutta Asian meet, but I think that he is a very moody player and with more hard work is capable of scaling greater heights.

Skipper Kamlesh Mehta played only against South Korea and opted out of the other matches. And there was really no chance to judge him. Sujay Ghoshade was a mere bystander.

I believe it was the bad draw which was responsible for our 5-0 defeat at the hands of South Korea. I feel we would have extended them at least to 5-2. The night before the match, Kamlesh had a long discussion with me and we decided on a particular order of matches. Unfortunately, when both of us were practising the next morning the coaches Bhandari and Pak Gill changed the order without consulting us and it came to our notice too late for anything to be done. I must mention here that Pak apologised to the whole team for his blunder.

Coming to the match, the only time the South Koreans were under pressure was when their world number 14 Park Lee Hee was in the danger of defeat at my hands. For a change I was handling his combination racquet very well and it looked as if I would win.

However, some spectacular play from him, combined with a few lucky points in the decider, settled the issue in his favour.

Against Japan, I took the only match when I defeated Nuka Zuka. Manmeet Singh played very well to take a game from the former World



*Xie Sake uses his perihold grip to devastating effect*

TARAPADA BANERJEE

Champion Seiji Ono in the same tie. Mention must be made of Indu Puri who also took a match from Japan.

All things considered, I feel, we put up a creditable performance. There are certain aspects which will have to be improved if we are to do better in the international arena. Firstly, the service. Except Manmeet Singh to a certain extent the service of the others need to be improved considerably. On most occasions we found that the opponent was taking advantage when we were serving and that is not something very healthy.

Secondly, the return of service. This is and has been one of India's greatest drawbacks. The pen-grip service especially is creating a lot of problems for us, specifically for me. I must learn to return this service in a very positive manner if I want to do anything constructive in world table tennis. Last but not the least, we are still lacking in physical fitness and stamina. After the two-month camp, we are undoubtedly fitter but this cannot be compared with the physical fitness of the Chinese, Japanese or the Koreans.

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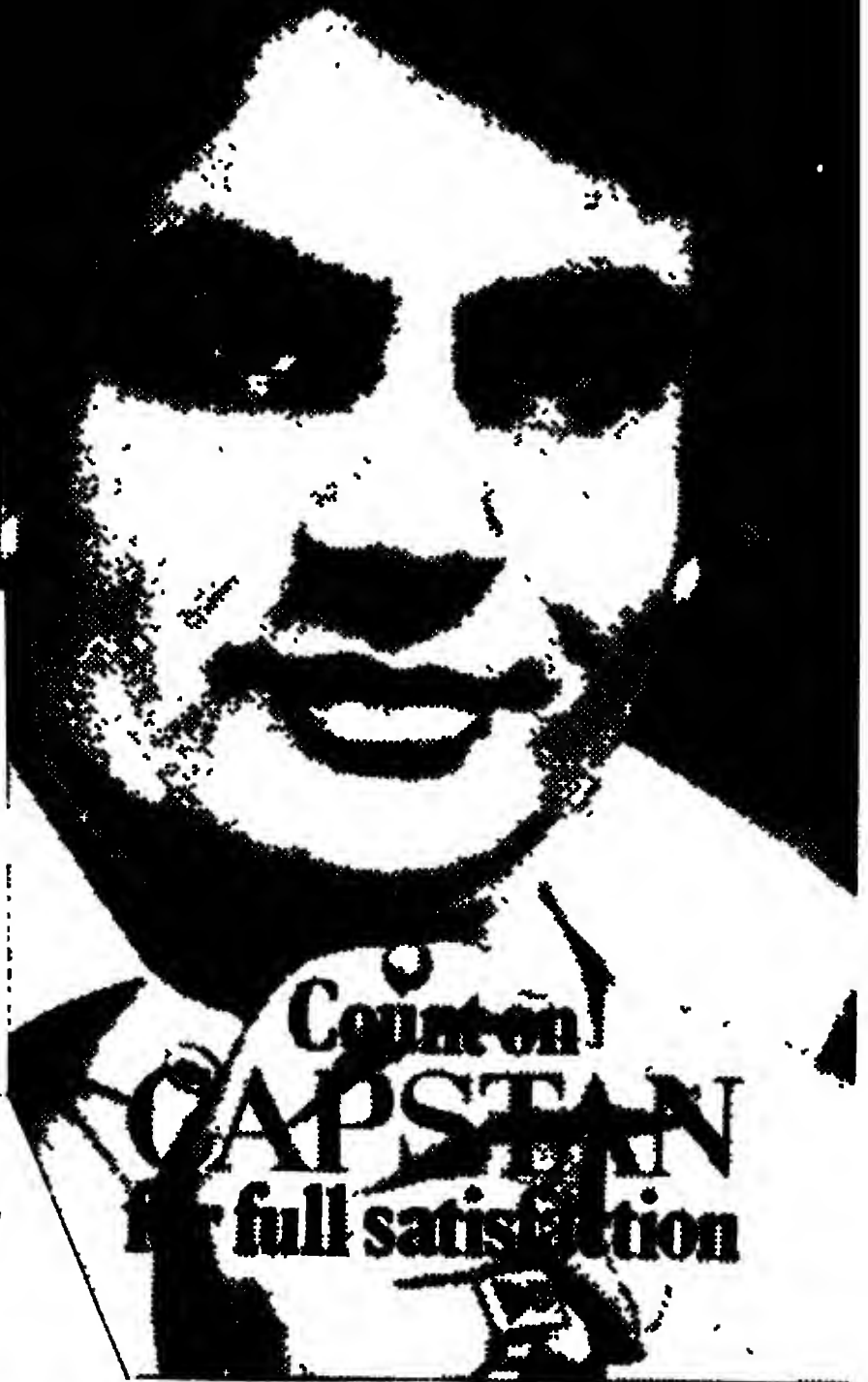
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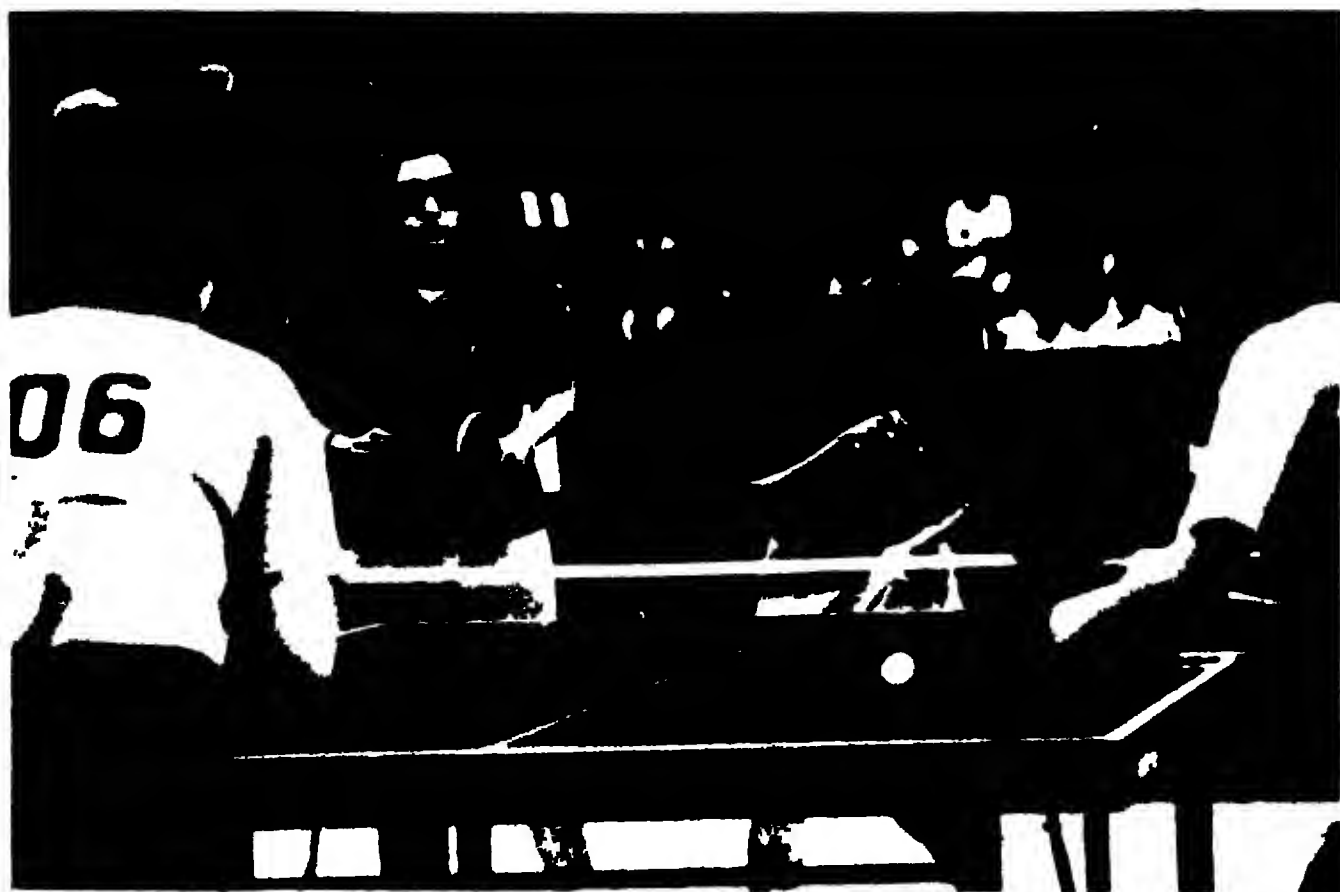
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Puri and Shailaja Sankar

in way to an outright defeat at the hands of the combination from DPH Korea

There certainly was no checking the Chinese. Following their team triumphs, China swept all but one title in the open events of the Asian Games Table Tennis Championship. Only the men's doubles gold slipped out of China's hands.

Such is the surfeit of talent in the rank and file of China that initially the current World Champion Guo Yue Hua was not slated to take part in the men's singles; the Chinese number two Cai Zhen Hua and Xie Saikie represented China's challenge.

But following Cai Zhen Hua's ankle injury in the team events which preceded the open, Guo came in as a replacement. And the Chinese ace had the mortification of being beaten by a 19-year-old Japanese, Hiroshi Saito. Saito eventually lost to Xie Saikie but he will certainly count the Delhi Asiad among his most memorable moments.

Xie Saikie is one of the best representatives of China's close to the table offensive credo. This southpaw with a penholder grip was simply devastating in terms of sheer power; leave alone anything else. On the morning of the final, he demolished another famous left hander, Japan's 1979 World Champion in four games.

One would rate this duel among the very best. In retrospect, it was the Chinese player's service that tilted the battle his way. Both the aces employed a double flank attack and rallies were, as a rule, short and

bitter.

The women's final was an all-Chinese affair as expected. And the title decider was a repeat of the last Asian Table Tennis Union Championship. The world women's singles title holder Tong Ling surrendered to compatriot Cai Yan Hua in straight games. The first two games were close but Cai, whom many knowledgeable observers rate a rung above the current World Champion, allowed her rival few liberties in the third game. Tong Ling managed 12 points and the crown was Cai's.

Chinese pairs also figured in the women's doubles final and Cai Yan Hua collected her second open gold partnering Dai Li Li, to beat losing singles finalist Tong Ling and Qi Juan.

By the end of the championship, individually Cai Yan Hua was the 'richest' with four gulds—from the women's team event, the doubles and the mixed doubles (with Xie Saikie). Saikie's tally was three—from the men's team title, the men's singles, and the mixed doubles.

The taking point of the eight-day meet was the renaissance as it were, of the Japanese. If there was anyone who looked capable of preventing a clean sweep of the titles by the Chinese it was the men from Japan.

In Saito the Nippons have one of the finest world class players. Saito and Siegi Ono had particularly fruitful campaigns and it augurs well for

the next World Championship which Japan will be hosting in Tokyo in about four months from now.

It teenager Saito was the 'find' of the championship, world champion Guo Hua's performance suggests a downward swing in his career graph. If his showing in Delhi is any indication, Guo will be hard put to defend his crown in Tokyo. And the challenge will come not only from his younger compatriots but also from the Japanese and Europeans. One is led to believe that the initial decision not to expose Guo to the open singles was guided by factors different from the official version of "giving a younger player" a chance.

From India's point of view, national champion V. Chandrasekhar's march was stopped by the North Korean number one Cho Yong Ho in four games. In the second game Chandra was leading 19-13 but lost. Manmeet Singh was far too defensive to pose problems for the other North Korean, Hong Chol. And a measure of Hong Chol's class can be gauged by the fact that he took a game off the eventual winner Xie Saikie. It may be recalled that Manmeet defeated Hong Chol in the ATTU meet last May. In the women's singles, national champion Indu Puri lost to Tong Ling in the quarters and Monalisa Barua, who had the benefit of a very easy draw, fell to Kyung Yoon Mi.

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## SWIMMING

**J**APAN maintained their stranglehold on the swimming events, guarding their supremacy with competence. But one could not help noticing the performances of the Chinese, South Koreans and the Filipinos. Japan started the swimming as odds-on favourites, but the manner in which things turned out, Japanese swimmers are not going to have it all their way in the future.

That the Japanese swimmers have remained on top for so long is not doubt proof of their superb training programmes and techniques, along with constant international exposure, the lack of which would reduce any intensified programme to shambles. But they are not going to have it so easy at the Asian level, for the Chinese proved beyond a shade of doubt at these Games that they are champions in the making.

This is the first time that Indian swimmers have attained so many places in the lineup for the finals. True, this is not exactly something to trumpet about, but then our swimmers have for some reason or the other, always lagged behind the rest

of the world. This Asian saw Indians coming through the heats, although admittedly, our compatriots were invariably in the slow lane eight once they got through to the finals. We have a long way to go before we win our first bronze, even at the Asian level of competition.

If it could be said that we had a hope at all, it was in the 4×200 m relay for men and also the 4×100 m relay for men. Whatever improvements have been noticed in our swimmers are due in no small measure to the patience and expertise of German coach Bernd Johnke, but we have a lot of hard work ahead of us.

One valid point is that our swimmers are not getting adequate exposure at the international level. This will provide invaluable experience and at the same time, enable our swimmers to study firsthand the techniques used by champion nations on the other side of the globe.

Japan reigned supreme in both events for the 400 m freestyle, for men and women. While Ikuhiro Terashita took the men's gold in style, William Wilson of the Philippines took the silver and Wu Jun Huang gave China the bronze. The women's gold was taken by Mika

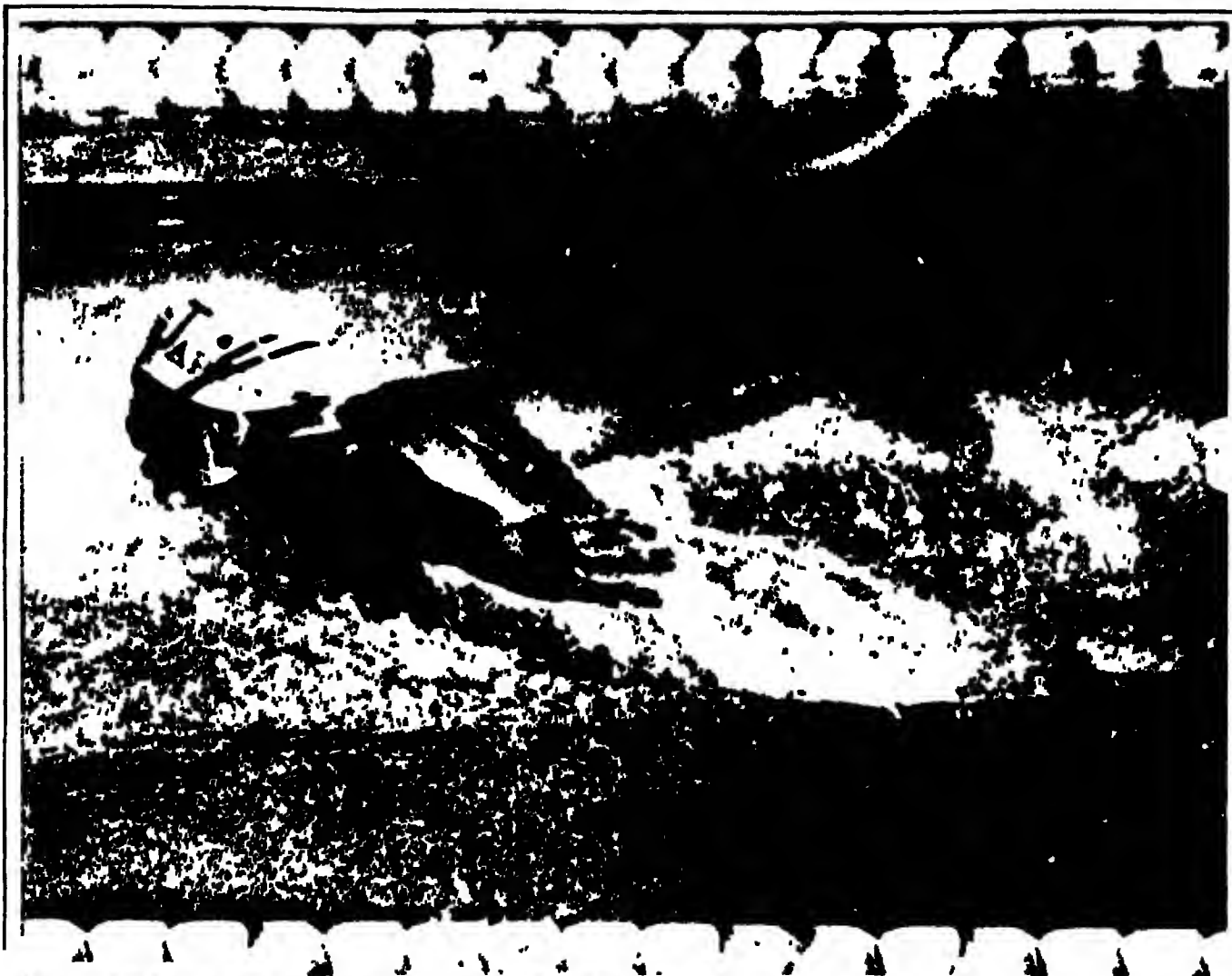
Saito of Japan who set a new Asian mark of 4:25.72 and she was followed by compatriot Junko Sakurai. Both swimmers eclipsed the existing Asian Games record of 4:30.16 but even the fight for the bronze was a close one, with Malaysia's Helen Hien Kee Chou giving See Eun Lee of Korea a few anxious moments. However, in the dying stages of the race, the latter managed to pull away to finish third. India's Anita Sood had the consolation of finishing fifth in this final.

**I**N the 200 m backstroke events for men and women, the existing records were once again bettered. Japan's Hidetoshi Takahashi lowered the mark to 2:08.33 which incidentally also bettered the Asian record as well as the Games mark. Xin Tian Yang of China claimed the silver with the bronze going to Indonesia. This incidentally was the first bronze going to Indonesia. This incidentally was the first bronze for Indonesia, the swimmer being Luckman Niode. This event saw Indian swimmers Wilson Cherian and Ranajoy Punja taking their place among the others in the final lineup, but while Wilson managed fifth place, his team-mate



The sensational, Korean sisters, Yuan Hae Choi and Kuan Jung Choi, after winning gold and silver in the 100 metres backstroke for women





Japan's Takami Ise, winner of the gold medal in the 100 metres butterfly stroke for women

could do no better than finish last.

In the 200 m backstroke for women Zhu Xin Zhang got off to a good start but her lead was soon challenged by the Korean sisters Yung Jung Choi and Yung Hee Choi. Yung Jung finished a hairbreadth ahead of her elder sister at the end of the race, but both swimmers had the satisfaction of lowering the existing record. Yung Jung finished with a timing 2 21.96 and Jung Hee with 2 22.85 while the Japanese girl Hisae Asari took the bronze though she was a long way behind the frontrunners. India's Persis Madan took seventh place.

But Japan, undeterred, struck back to take both butterfly place-golds. In the men's 200 m Taihei Saja did so in style, gold, which was slightly over a second and a half under the old mark. Saja's win was never in any doubt, but the battle for the second place was a really close one, with only 0.18 sec separating the second and third swimmers. Ultimately, second place went by a mere touch to Korea's Jun Yung Bang while the bronze went to Masakazu Hirata of Japan. If there was a race that had the spectators riveted to

their seats, it was this, not just for the scintillating time set by the winner, but also for the nailbiting tension generated by the fight for the silver.

Three was an Indian in the final of this race too. Khazan Singh finished seventh, but he had the satisfaction of beating the Indonesian swimmer Ridwan Muus. In the women's event, little Bula Chowdhury, who earned a very special place for herself in the hearts of the spectators for her plucky performance, finished seventh as well.

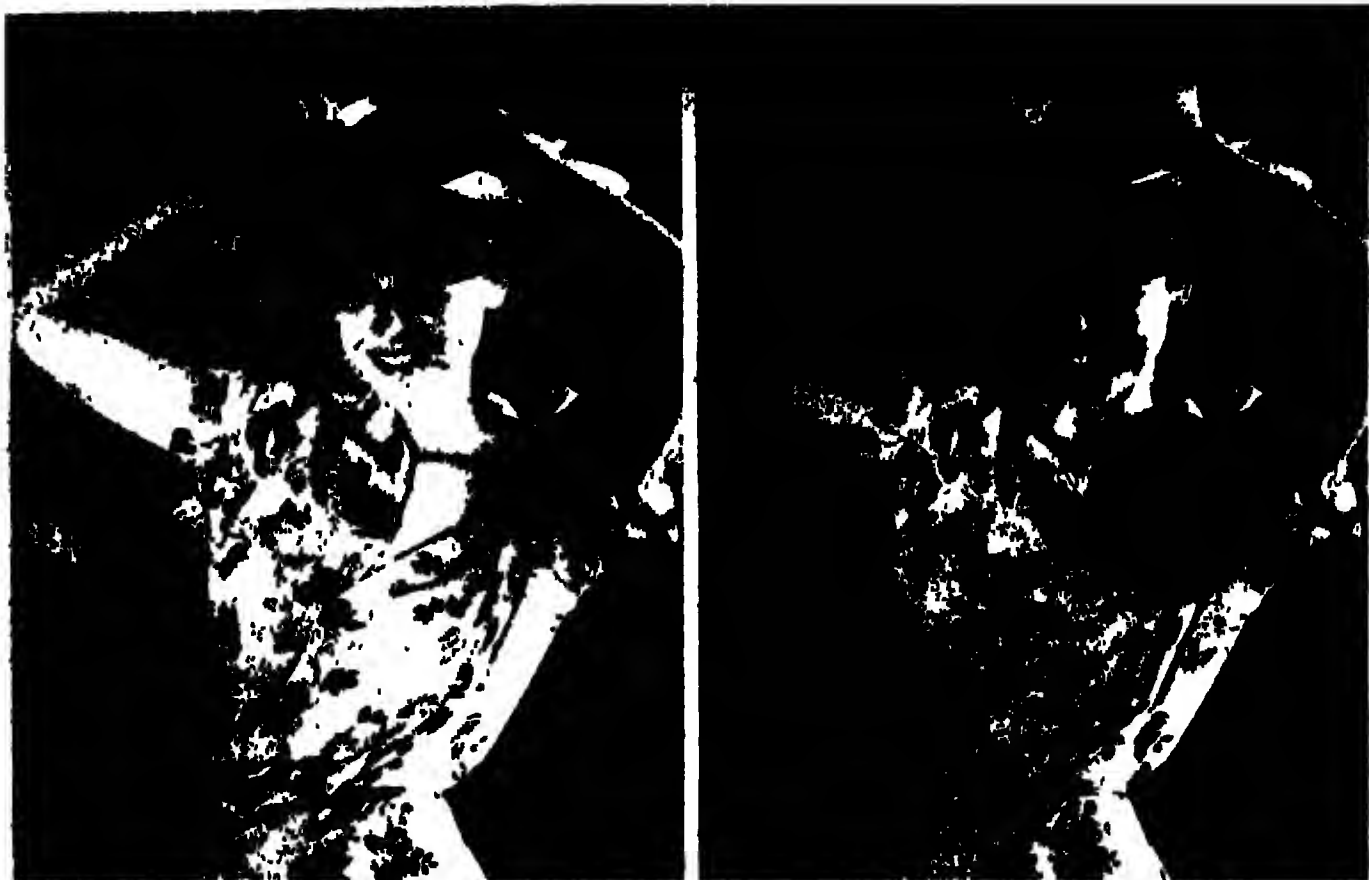
The 200 m butterfly for women was won by Takami Ise in an incredibly close finish. The first two spots both went to Japanese swimmers, while the bronze was taken by Korean Kum Hee Kim. The two Japanese girls literally battled it out till the last stroke and the race came perilously close to ending in a dead heat. There was little to separate the team-mates and as the clock finally told the tale, only 0.18 sec spelt the difference between gold and silver.

China came surging back onto the scene shortly thereafter. Even Chinese chief Mu Zian Ghao could never have hoped that his swimmers

would come back so strongly to literally force the Japanese into the backseat. They started team with the 4×100 m men's relay with a record time, followed this up with the 100 m breast-stroke for men and also walked away with the men's platform diving.

The relay gold perhaps came as one of the upset results of the Games, with the Chinese team clocking 3:33.74. That this performance was one of the most outstanding efforts in the Talkatora pool—and there were many such essays—can best be judged by the fact that the Chinese men clipped no less than 2.17 seconds off the existing mark that had been set by Japan.

In the heats for this event, the Indian team had actually returned a better timing than the Chinese, but it later became apparent that the Chinese had only been interested in qualifying and perhaps had wanted to swim within themselves so as not to alert the Japanese. Thus, when the quartet of Huang Gud Hua, Huang Gua Liang, Wan Quang and Li Zhon Gi established their scorching record, there were a number of jaws that dropped open at the poolside.



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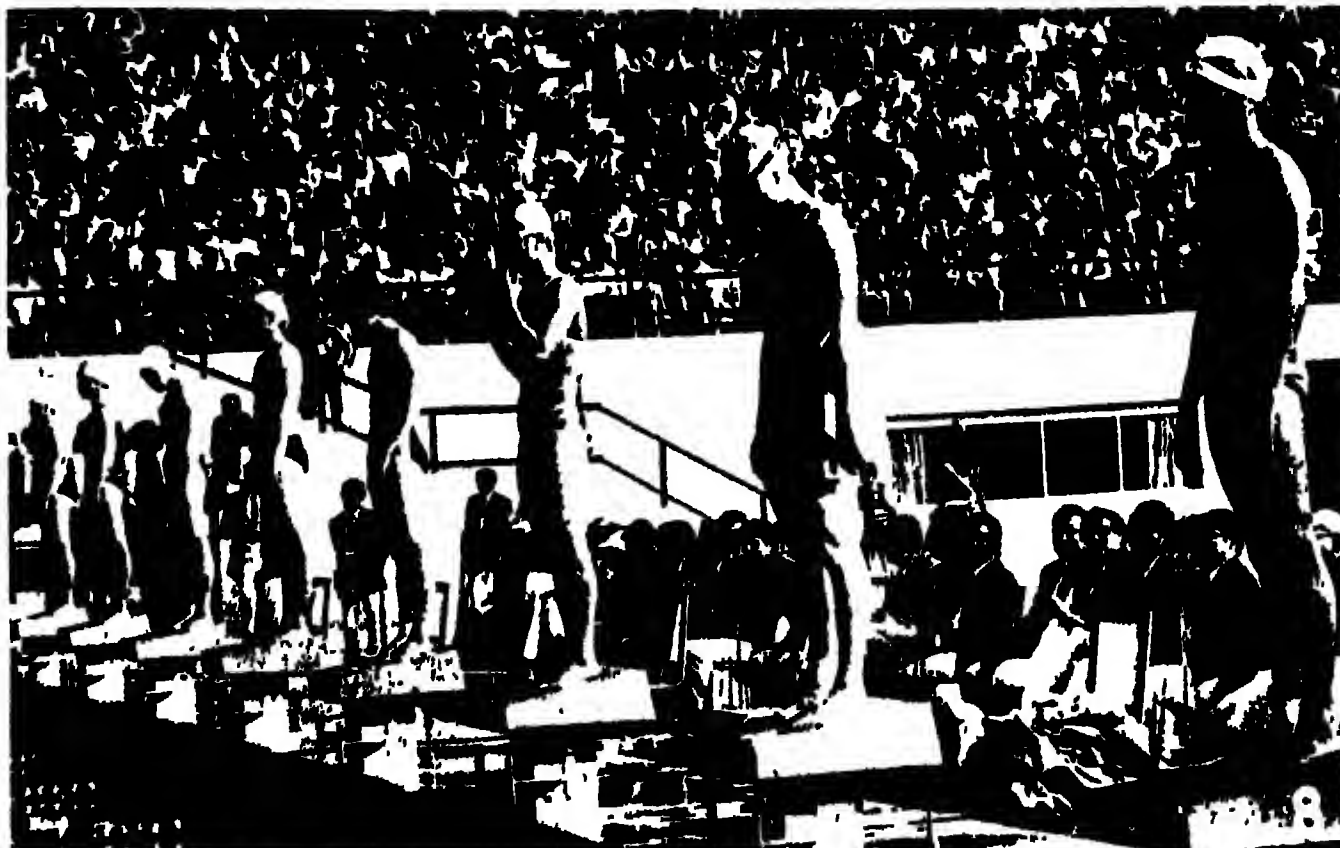
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Bula Chowdhury takes her place in lane number eight for the final of the 100 m butterfly

SANDEEP SANKAR

Strange tactics or not, the Chinese foursome had lowered the existing record and they had every reason to laugh up their sleeves

There was another sensational result in the men's 100m breaststroke when Bun Cheng Ye swam a beautifully co-ordinated race to dethrone the defending champion Shunehiro Takahashi and take the gold as though it were just one of those

everyday chores. The Japanese, who had to be content with a silver, had the consolation that his record survived, even if his reign came to a sudden and unexpected end. The talented Fu Jun of China finished third in this event, and proved that he could conceivably mature into a future champion in this event.

China went on to win their first diving gold in the men's platform

event through Hui Tong who was clearly a cut above the rest. The difference between him and the others cannot be exaggerated, but he was in a different category altogether. In the gruelling 1500m freestyle for men, Kimihiko Anzai took the gold with a timing of 16:21.82 while his countryman Kei Suke Okuno earned the silver to complete yet another gold silver fin-



The start of the women's 100 m butterfly. Note Bula Chowdhury's different start

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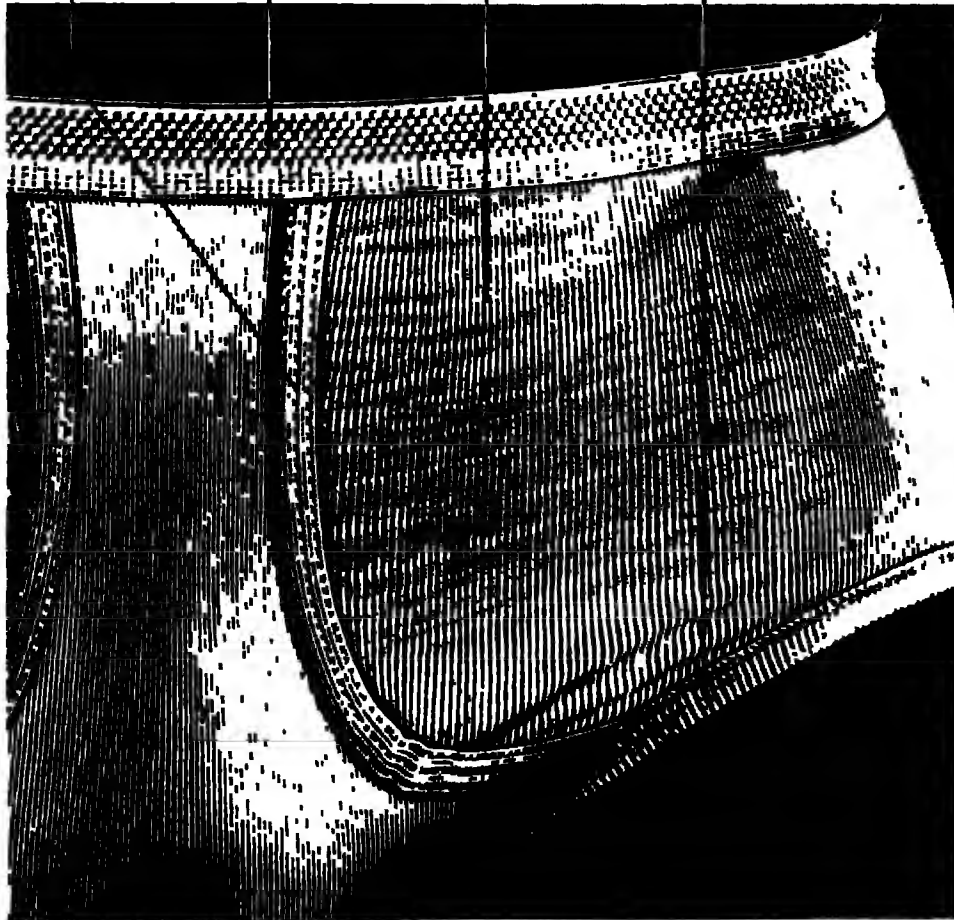
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ish for Japan. The strongly built swimmer from the Philippines, William Wilson, took his third medal of the Games when he finished third. For India, Dharampal Tokas finished last.

In the women's 800m the attention centred around 13-year-old Tokyo schoolgirl Naomi Sekido. She had set a new Games record in the heats and so she was a natural favourite for this event. Sure enough, she did not disappoint her supporters and the little children waving Japanese flags almost resorted to dancing the jig when she bettered her own timing to finish with 9 03 05. Her coach is not exaggerating when expressing the opinion that this girl will be worth looking out for at Los Angeles. Anita Sood finished fifth in this event.

The name of Hiroko Nagasaki once again figured on the list of winners when she confirmed her superiority in the 100m breaststroke to complete a double in the sprint events. She was never pushed on her way to the gold, but she did not manage to lower her record set in the heats, finishing 0 07 sec outside her timing of 1 12 06. There was never a swimmer close enough to cause her any apprehension at any stage of the race.

Fifteen-year-old Yong Hee Choi of South Korea turned out to be the most amazing female swimmer on view when she took two more golds in a single day. She started by taking the 100m backstroke with a record to dethrone Hasae Asari, who had been the unchallenged queen of the Bangkok Asiad and also took the gold in the 200m individual medley to finish over a creditable day. Her timing in the latter event, 2 24 32 also estab-

lished a new Games record. Patsy Madan improved upon her timing to finish sixth in this event.

In the men's 100 metres backstroke, Japan's Kenji Ikeda retained his position but this time clocked less than a minute to finish with 59 91. His teammate Hirotohi Takahashi came second to take the silver, while Wilson Cheria came fifth. In the men's 200m individual medley, China's Zhong Yi Li won the gold from Japan's Keichi Ohata with a timing of 2 10 93 but this was not a record-breaking performance. Khazan Singh too, ended fifth. Japan's revenge came when they took the gold in the 4 x 200m men's freestyle relay. They had started as favourites but China's first swimmer completed brave laps to finish neck and neck with his Japanese rival. China's second and third swimmers increased this lead painstakingly with each lap, but there was still more drama to follow. Japan's Saka who finished the race, proved that he was equal to the task ahead of him as he first caught up to his Chinese rival and began slowly to overhaul him, finishing a touch ahead of him to give his team the gold and thereby preventing what would have been a truly sensational upset. India lost the bronze to Indonesia and there were many who felt we would have made it if Khazan Singh had rested himself and not swum the individual medley only a few minutes before the relay.

As the curtain was being rung down on the swimming events, Japan suffered their worst moment. Although her swimmers had taken the bulk of the medals, the acid test was yet to come and the title of the fastest swimmer in Asia was at stake in the 100 metres freestyle final. In

the men's division, Japan just managed to scrape through to the final, with a tie for eighth place. Satou Sumida was the man who saved grace for his country by tying with an Indonesian swimmer. All eyes in this event were on the sensational swimmer from Singapore, 18 year-old Ang Peng Siong who clocked 54 14 seconds in the heats. Siong, many hold, is the fastest swimmer in the world over a 50 metre course. He repeated his performance in the final, taking the gold and establishing a new record of 53 seconds, lowering the existing mark by 1 01 seconds. There was no Japanese swimmer in the first three in this event.

They earned their revenge when Kaori Yanase took the title of the fastest woman swimmer, winning gold in the 100 metres for women. She also set a new record, clocking 57 88 seconds. This was a fine achievement for her as she had earlier won the 200 metres freestyle gold.

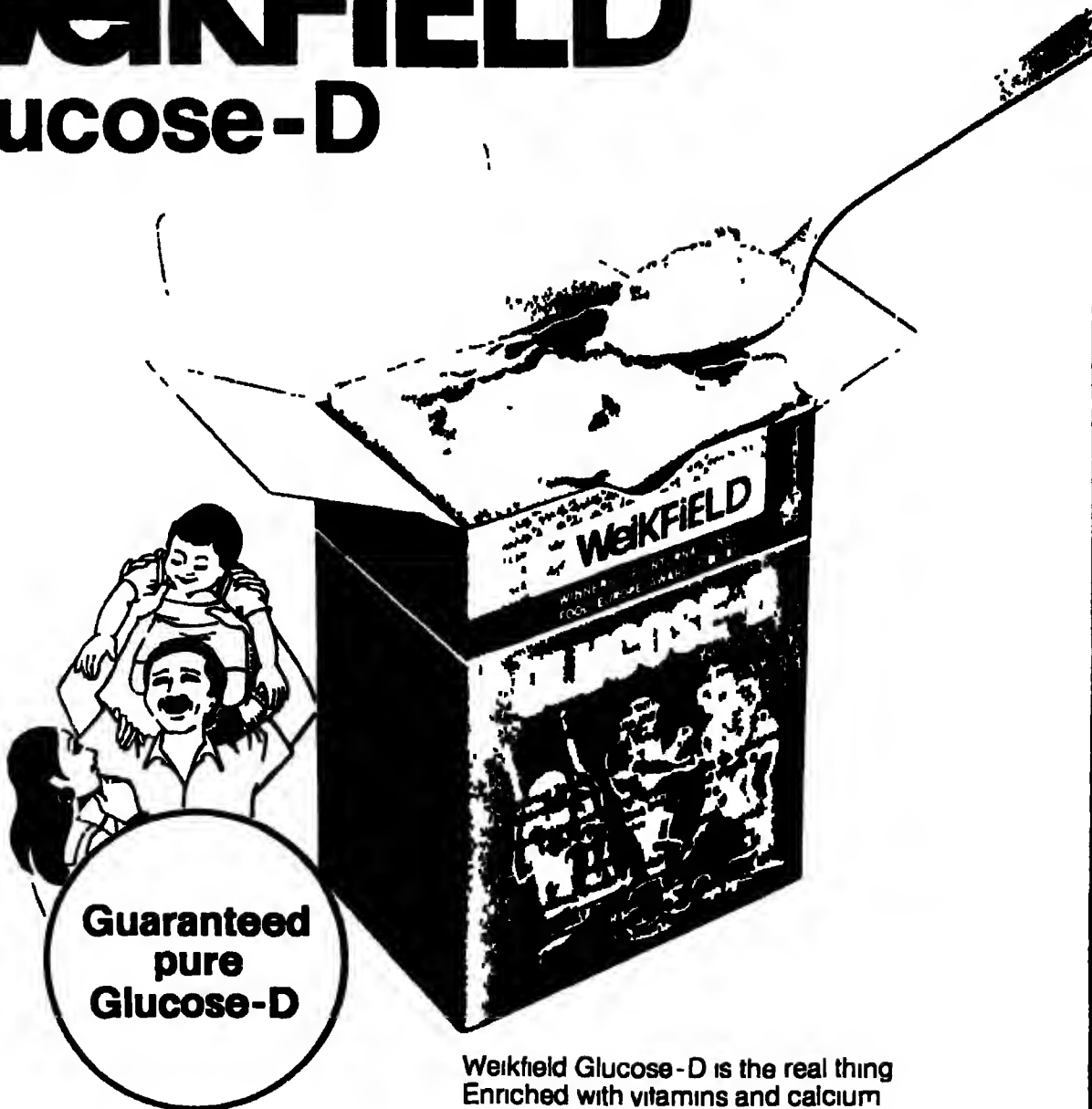
Both 100 metre butterfly races were taken by Japan, with records tumbling once again. In the men's section, Taihei Saka won the gold, his second of the Games, while his teammate Takemi Ise won pride of place in the women's event. Japan also took the medley relays, both in record time once more. Japan thus came to end the swimming with a total of 45 medals which included 21 golds, 14 silvers and 10 bronze medals. China, showing vast improvements in form, finished with a total of 30, with eight golds, 14 silvers and eight bronze medals. China swept the honours in the diving events, taking all the titles, while hosts India ended with a solitary bronze in the water polo.



Asia's fastest swimmer Peng Siong Ang of Singapore, who won the gold in the 100 metres free-style for men

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## BADMINTON

**J**UST about a year after China formally joined the mainstream of international badminton, that country's men's team dethroned Indonesia to claim the Thomas Cup. That final, at the Royal Albert Hall, London in May last, was clinched by a wafer-thin five-four margin. In New Delhi last week, Chinese men reasserted their collective superiority by claiming gold in the men's team final of the Asian Games at the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium. Chinese women had a day earlier claimed the precious metal by thrashing Uber Cup holders Japan.

Much of the interest in the final hinged around the opening singles clash between the Chinese *numero uno* Han Jian and the Indonesian equivalent in Liem Swie King. King raced into a 4-0 lead, serving notice that he was out to avenge his defeat at the hands of the Chinese ace in the Thomas Cup. But that was the only time when King had any real say in the proceedings. Han Jian caught up at nine-all and in one incredible spree, earned nine points in succession without giving King a chance to serve in that set again. King's role in his own downfall was unbelievable. Totally off colour, he seemed to have lost interest in the battle a short while after it had begun. Han Jian did not have to bring off anything really extraordinary. In that error-prone phase, nothing seemed to go right for King. When, on one occasion he effected a netcord-kissing hairpin drop which his rival barely managed to retrieve, King fluffed up his counter by crashing the bird into the net, when he had all the court for his asking. The second set saw King in poorer light. Before he knew what hit him, the man from China was leading 13-love. And like in the first set, all Han Jian had to do was play a steady game and allow his opponent to make, more often than not, unforced errors. Yes, maybe it was not King's day but seldom did he give the impression that he was at least trying to make it his.

Icuk Sugianto, the man who follows of the sport in India will especially remember as the conqueror of Prakash Padukone in the last Hyderabad Masters, met Luan Jin in the second singles. On paper at least, Sugianto was the underdog of the combat. This was further reinforced when he trailed 3-9 and Luan Jin was going great guns with some beautifully angled drops and responding aptly to whatever the Indonesian was smashing at him. But on one service, Sugianto came up with a dream spell which brought him 12 points. He unsettled Luan with some furious smashes and kept him pinned to the baseline with lobs that had depth and height in good measure. From 3-9, it was 15-9, set to

Sugianto.

This was precisely the shot in the arm the Indonesian needed. It was obvious that Luan Jin, finalist of the last All-England, was on the defensive. The first set loss had taken its toll. From the benefit of hindsight it can be said that perhaps, instead of being content to return his rival's smashes, if Luan Jin counter-attacked and drew Sugianto nearer the net, he might have had the last word. On the few occasions when the Indonesian was forced to engage in net play, he lobbed back the 'bird' and dictated terms. Sugianto's win put Indonesia on par with China.

The teams shared the two doubles and that bestowed on the third singles the status of decider (for the first time in this championship). Chen Chanjie clinched the issue China's way by beating Wirawan Hadiyanto without too much ado. Round two has gone to China.

The title win by the Chinese women was far more emphatic than that achieved by the men. They beat Japan in a lopsided final which brought into sharp focus the yawning gap between the standard of the champions sets, the women from the land of the rising sun fought for all they were worth. Which was not much in tangible terms, as the scorecard proves.

China's All-England reigning singles champion Zhang Ailing opened her country's title bid with a 6-0 lead over Kitada. The furious pace at which Zhang began gave one the impression that Kitada would not be given a chance to have a say in the rallies. The Japanese tried to pay back Zhang in her own coin by counter attacking but it did not last for long. The Japanese national champion managed only eight points in all.

Li Lingwei meted out the same steamroller treatment to the left-handed Fumiko Tokkai and then Wu Dixi and Lin Ying put paid to Japan's (non-existent?) hopes of making a match of it. The rest is history.

Apart from China and, to lesser extents Indonesian men and Japanese women, the teams that made their presence felt in the first four days of competition were the men and women from South Korea. In the last Asian Games in Bangkok, South Korea fielded only her women's team and that too without anything of note at the end of the Games. To the rest of the badminton world, the best known South Koreans were the 1981 All-England women's singles winner Sun Ai Hwang and men's doubles semi-finalists Park Joo Bong and Eun Ko Lee. In this championship, South Korean women beat the formidable Indonesians in the quarter-finals and among the most notable performances was the one by Kim Yun Ja who plastered Verawaty Fajrin in straight sets. The only match in five that the Indone-

sians could take off the Koreans was the one by Yanti Kusumati. And mind you, Sun Ai Hwang featured only in one of the doubles: a finger injury prevented her from participating in the singles.

Hosts India managed to claim bronze in both the team events, thanks to the rules book which has no provision for a play off for the third place between the losing semi-finalists. India shared the bronze with Korea. The interesting aspect of I in the women's section is that the campaign began and ended with just one tie. There were five teams in the fray and India were lucky to receive a bye into the semi-finals. So even before the contest had begun, India had a bronze in the bag.

Syed Modi and company had to get past a small hurdle in the form of Thailand in the quarter-finals. This they did by a 5-0 margin. In the semis they ran into Indonesia. The Indians were wiped out but the good showing by National and Commonwealth champion Syed Modi in the opening singles against Liem Swie King salvaged some honour for India. After going shares on the first two sets, Modi had King by the scruff of his neck when he led 12-8 in the decider. But King, who had a rather indifferent tournament at least in the team phase, pulled up his socks and won the decider. The rest of the Indian challenge was innocuous and the home team's campaign ended there.

ASHOK KAMATH

## SHOOTING

**T**HOSE who benefited most from the Asiad have been the shooters. World class ranges have been built, weapons and ammunition have been imported. Today our facilities are comparable with the best in the world. The National Rifle Association of India—the parent body—now has a platform from where competitive shooting in India can be launched in a big way.

It is not that Indian shooting has not been winning laurels from the country earlier. India has been very prominent in the clay pigeon Trap circuit around the world.

The father of Indian shooting, Maharaja Karni Singh of Bikaner, won the first shooting medal for India in the world shooting championship at Cairo in 1962. Fantastic shooting, 295 out of 300, a new world record and a silver medal for India. Maharaja Karni Singh at the Oslo World Championship won four gold badges, the only shooter in the world to win gold badges in the pistol, rifle and shot gun events. He is considered the best all-round shooter in the world. Thanks to him and his guidance, Indian trap shooters have advanced considerably.

As in other sports, the N.I.S. was entrusted with the training of the

# Here's to the legends of our time

## *Tennis*

*Bjorn Borg (Sweden)  
Wimbledon Singles  
Title for five  
successive years --  
1976-80*

## *Soccer :*

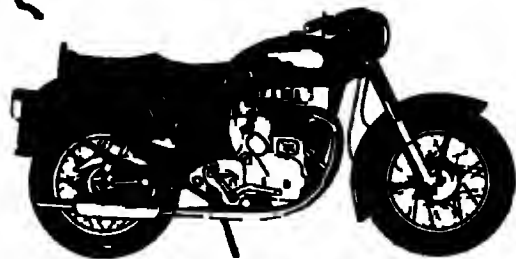
*Pelé (Brazil)  
Scored 1 216 goals  
between September 1956  
and October 1974 — a  
record! (This total  
reached 1 281 in 1,363  
games by his retirement  
in 1977)*

## *Gymnastics*

*Vera Caslavskia Odlozil  
(Czechoslovakia)  
7 individual gold medals —  
record for women in  
all sports!*

## *Swimming :*

*Mark Spitz (USA)  
7 gold medals at the  
1972 Munich Olympics*



# ENFIELD BULLET

Indian team for the Asian Games Coaching camps were held regularly and free ammunition was given for practice For the shooters selected, pistols, rifles and shot guns were imported at government cost Daily allowances for the sportsmen in camps were adequate and coaches were invited from Europe and America

The clock has turned a full circle Before there were no international standard ranges—the clay pigeon shooting had one of the worst ranges in the world—an apology of a range placed in the middle of the Army Parade Ground in the Delhi cantonment, in front of which someone had built a bathroom

The Indian team for clay pigeon trap was sent by the Education Ministry for a two-month tour to England The team consisting of Maharaja Karni Singh, Randhir Singh, Gurbir Singh, and Mansher Singh trained at the North Wales Shooting School The performance of the team was excellent In the British Open in August the Indian team finished third out of seven countries I managed to tie for the second place with P Boden and Peter Croft of England Peter Boden represented England at the Commonwealth Games and won the gold medal and Peter Croft won the Bronze

Maharaja Karni Singh and I were selected to represent India at the Commonwealth Games but as our ranges were not ready and the Clay Pigeons had not come, decided to opt out of the Championship

Meanwhile our rifle and pistol shooters were blazing a trail in the Commonwealth Games having won a silver medal and a bronze medal at the Games in the team event This was the first time that in major competitions abroad India won medals They won silver and bronze medals respectively

The Asian Games competition started off with a bang, the shooters having arrived seven days before for practice Everyone was amazed to see our ranges and all were happy with the facilities provided by the Organising Committee

Shooting had the second largest entry outside athletics There were twenty two gold Medals at stake Our strongest event was again trap shooting with Maharaja Karni Singh, Gurbir Singh, P K Roy and myself

The competition was very exciting On the first day Umeitzu Akira of Japan led the field with 71/75 Maharaja Karni Singh and I shot 68/75 each Then on the second day the leader Umeitzu Akira had a bad round and dropped behind the Chinese shooter Yu Hiaquan who finished with a score of 142/150 I managed to shoot a good round and finish on 141/150 and the Japanese shooter Watanalse was on 140/150

After the end of the second day, the team scores were decided China won the gold medal with a 532/600,

India was second 522/600 and Japan 520/600 third

On the last day Watanalse had two brilliant rounds and won the gold medal with a score of 189/200 and Yu Hiaquan and I tied for the second place with 185/200 But unfortunately I shot badly in the tie shooting and lost the silver medal to my friend the Chinese shooter

RANDHIR SINGH

## GYMNASTICS

THERE was a Chinese invasion at the Indraprastha Indoor Stadium The manner in which they dominated the gymnastics competi-

tion in this magnificent arena had to be seen to be believed They were, for all practical purposes, an all-conquering force and the fact that they claimed all but three titles was ample proof of their incredible prowess Delhi was just another city in the Asian Games history where they left their mark.

And how! Long after the last of the apparatus had been removed, long after the last echo of applause had died down in the stadium, those who were privileged enough to watch the incredible Chinese in action, would still be searching for fresh superlatives When speaking—or for that matter writing—of the Chinese gymnasts, one is tempted to resort to lyricism, for mere prose



China winners of the men's team gold on the victory stand



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cannot ever convey the grace and art of their brilliance. The phrase "poetry in motion" comes to mind and is discarded as inadequate in order to describe what was witnessed in the course of the four-day competition.

Names and performances literally trip over each other, marring into a never-ending spectacle that enthralled and enchanted even while it fascinated. But the name that comes first to mind is without doubt that of the incredible Wu Jiani, the 16-year-old student who set the Games alight and captured the hearts of the spectators by virtue of her flawless performance that earned her the first ever perfect ten in the history of the Asian Games. The applause that greeted this score was of the sort that one cannot even describe if one uses the word roar. It took a few moments for the significance of the score to dawn on the onlookers, but when it did, there was no lack of sincerity in the way they lionised the graceful, charming young Chinese girl.

As Nadia Commaneci had done at the Montreal Olympics, Wu Jiani recorded her score of ten on the balancing beam. The Chinese teenager is no stranger to top level competition in this sport. She was a member of the Chinese team that finished second in the World Championships and also the winner of the bronze medal on the balancing beam in the same competition. She was not unaccustomed to the tension and pressure of top-flight competition and she left her mark on the Ninth Asian Games in no uncertain manner.

Her campaign here at Delhi did not begin on a particularly distinguished note as she opened with 9.20 on the vaulting horse to attract only lukewarm applause. But on the uneven bar she showed her calibre and gave a hint of things to come with a score of 9.99. Then came the balancing beam and Wu Jiani was really in her elements, displaying grace and technical perfection that held the audience spellbound. The perfect ten that followed created history, but perhaps it was only to be expected after such a stupendous performance. Wu Jiani rounded off her appearance with a score of 9.90 in the floor exercises and what was most apparent was that she had enjoyed performing just as much—if not more—than those who watched her create history.

As far as the men's events went, Li Ning was perhaps the most outstanding performer. At the very outset, he was a man to be watched. He came to Delhi as China's most promising male gymnast and to add to this was the fact that he is also the current national champion in China. Certainly he did not disappoint those who made the pilgrimage to see him in action, as he took the individual gold, while his team-mate Fei Tong took the silver.

There was also an element of confusion in the men's gymnastics and one was tempted to ponder on whether there had been a similar instance in the history of the Asiad movement. We witnessed the rare sight of points being deducted from a gymnast's score because of the intervention of a coach. This happened in the beam event, when, in the midst of a keen tussle for the top honours, Fei Tong of China was a hairsbreadth behind the North Korean gymnast Chol Hon Li.

The Chinese gymnast had an aggregate of 48.95 points, while the North Korean held the most slender of leads with 49.00 points to his credit.

On the beam, it was the North Korean who seemed to have done better, but inexplicably the Chinese was given 9.80, while Chol received only 9.65. This was done after some consultation and the flabbergasted Korean coach began protesting vehemently. He was strongly supported by the rest of the Korean contingent

and the crowd joined the fray, directing their wrath at the judges.

But it seemed that nothing, not even sheer decibel level of outraged protest, would help change the mind of the chief judge, a Kuwaiti. He refused to reverse the judgment and when the Korean coach continued to argue, the Kuwaiti retaliated by deducting points from Chol's aggregate. A score of 0.20 was deducted by way of a penalty, but the chief judge was on firm ground, for the relevant law states that such an action is authorised if a coach speaks to a gymnast during the execution of an exercise.

Whether or not the coach spoke to Chol was debatable. It certainly did not seem as though any conversation had taken place while Chol was in action. But the fact remained that the Korean was deprived of the points he so desperately needed in order to take the silver and so he had to be content, instead, with the bronze, through no fault of his own.



Yang Yin Chen, the women's individual champion



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## WHAT DOES APPU LIKE TO READ?



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What  
Appu Likes

Appu likes to know all about the colourful events, enjoy the pictures and loves to compare the medal tallies of the previous Asian Games

Appu's choice is therefore the **Story of the Asian Games** written by Dr Narottam Pun and published by National Book Trust, India. Written in a lucid language the **Story of the Asian Games** is priced at only Rs 6 -

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# CYCLING

**I**N an era long forgotten, at the very first Asiad in this very city, a Japanese cyclist called Takeo Sato emerged as the fastest man in Asia. He set the trend for what was supposed to be a truly grand tradition, but Japan's cycling prestige was soon to dwindle. The nation continued to churn out good cyclists, but none of them was world class. Now, three decades after that first Asiad, there is another Japanese cyclist who has emulated Sato. Tsumoto Sakamoto thrilled the crowds at the velodrome as he assumed the mantle of the fastest Asian cyclist.

He first showed his undoubted class in the 1,000m time trial to finish the race with a record time of 1 min 09.15 sec. There was no question about his superiority in this event, which incidentally was only excluded once at the Manila Asiad.

So swift was the pace set by the chubby 20-year-old Japanese that even the silver medal winner in this event, South Korean Yung Soo Kim, broke the existing record in the name of South Korea's Lee Kwan Sun. Indeed, Yung Soo Kim emerged as the only worthy challenger among the cyclists who took on the Japanese.

Despite windy conditions at the start of the time trial, Sakamoto maintained an average speed of 52.06 kilometres per hour. His performance here at Delhi, he was to admit later, has boosted his morale no end and he is now looking forward to the World Championship gold at Zurich next year. He has his sights set on the Los Angeles Games, after which he may even turn professional.

With one gold medal already in his possession and a place for himself in the record books, Sakamoto then set his sights on the 1,000

individual sprint gold. The competition notwithstanding, he showed no apparent strain or discomfort in taking first place.

At the outset, his only formidable rivals were Japanese national champion Katsuo Nakatake and the Korean Yung Soo Kim but he completed the race with the utmost style and confidence. In this event too he set another Games record, bettering Shiempei Okajima's mark of 1 min 11.47 sec.

There was never any question of the outcome of this race, with the Japanese unmatched in the event that he has made very much his own preserve. Try though the others would, there was nothing they could do to prevent him from taking his second straight gold of the Games.

Japan went on to assert her supremacy in the 4,000 metres individual and team pursuit events, once again succeeding simultaneously in keeping the medal-hungry Koreans at bay.

Young Japanese cyclist Mitsuji Sarudate found the inspiration to power his way to individual pursuit gold. This event once again saw a new Games record being established, with Sarudate clocking 4 min 59.83 sec. This meant that he had slashed no less than 17.60 seconds off the old mark, which was established by another Japanese, Toshia Eura, at the last Bangkok Games in 1978. This timing indicates that Sarudate finished with an average speed of 40.49 kilometres per hour, a pace so hot that Korean participant Kim Ju Seik failed to cope with the circumstances and conceded the race while in the ninth lap.

Leading the 4,000m team pursuit was Sarudate once again, ably assisted by his vigorous teammates, who brought Japan yet

another gold. Once again, the existing Games record was lowered, the new mark being 4 min 45.73 sec, which was 3.35 seconds inside the old record held by the Koreans.

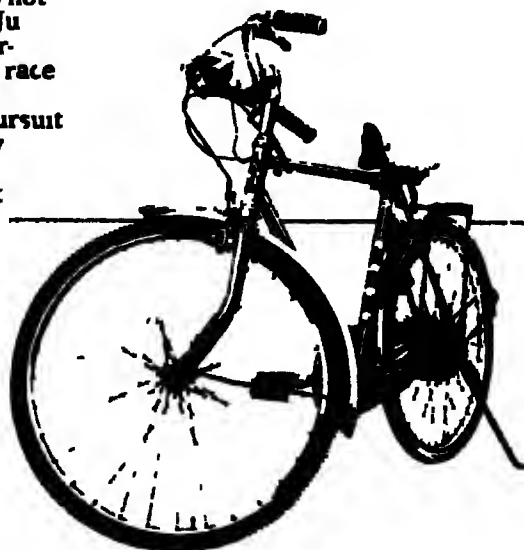
Japan completed their sweep in the track events when Akiro Bando claimed the gold in style. But when it came to the long distance events, it was a different story altogether as the Koreans came back strongly into the picture. They added to their 100km team gold when Se Ryong Park took the gold in the gruelling 180km event, which also happened to be the last event on the card.

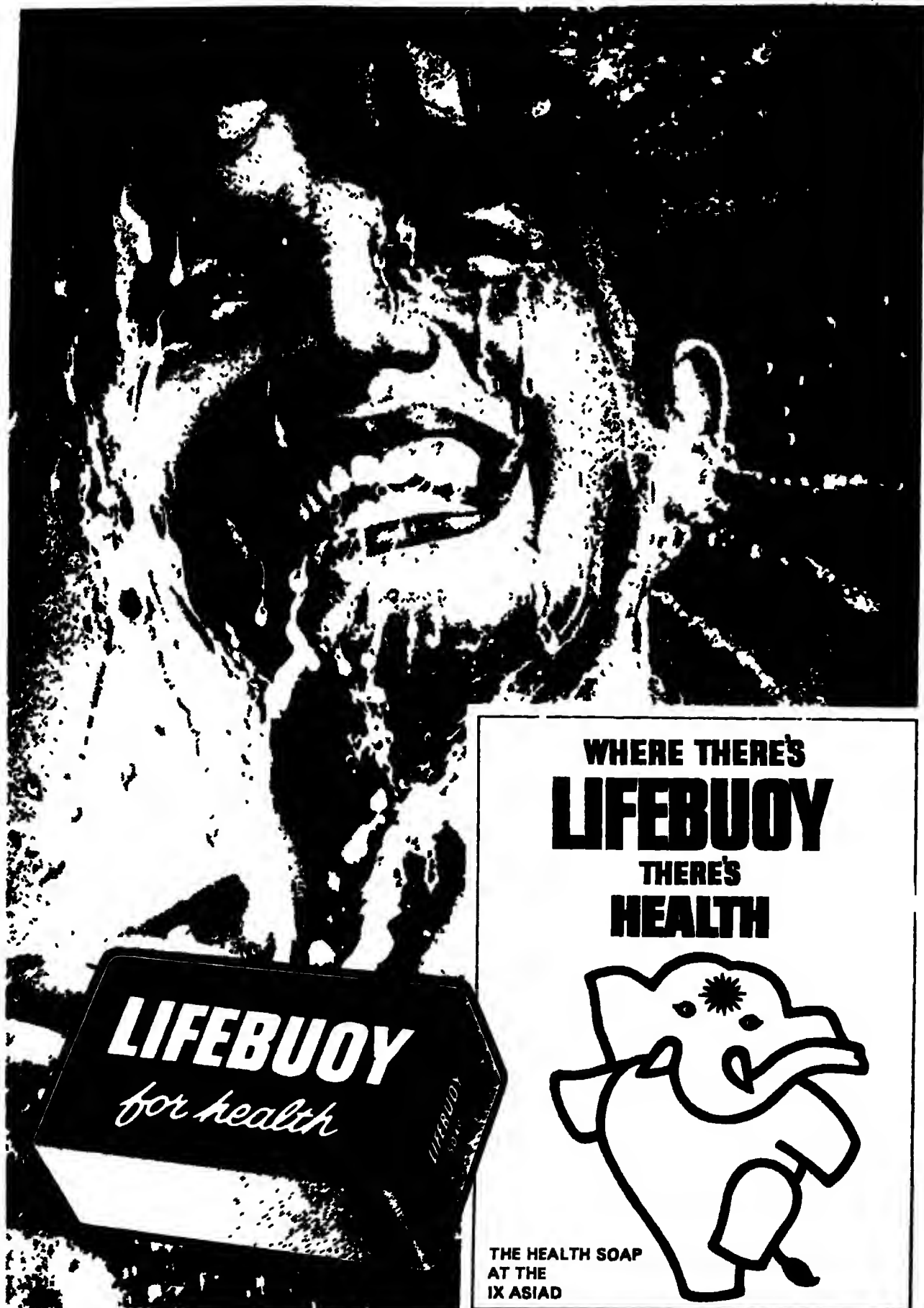
As for the Indians, they have little to enthuse over. After 1951, they have produced no cyclist or feat that bears mention. The only chance of a medal was lost when young Maxwell Trevor was confined to bed. The latter, not yet recovered fully from his illness, finished eighth out of a field of nine in the 1,000m time trial. Even his timing was way below his Trial Games effort.

In the individual sprint, the Indians cut a sorry figure. S. S. Mann and Avtar were literally dwarfed by Sakamoto and Nakatake, while Sikander Singh, who raised some hopes of a 4,000 individual pursuit bronze, never really lived up to expectations. The only redeeming factor was Sikander's career-best 5 min 09.73 sec in this event.

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## GOLF

**T**hree cheers for Lakshman Singh  
And three cheers for the golfing  
fraternity in India in general

The tall, gangling young man goes down in history as the first Asian Games golf champion for his individual gold and for putting India, as a team, along with Rajiv Mohta, Rishi Narain and Amit Luthra, on the amateur golf map of the world

But the drama and the suffocating suspense was all too pervasive on the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth holes of the final round. Tension was in the air, so thick you could have cut it with a knife. Breaths were held and there was a general air of expectancy during those climatic, crucial stages

The team gold appeared certain when Lakshman Singh hit a fine second shot on to the green from a difficult line on the fifteenth. Par four could not be questioned, even if the twelve foot putt was none too easy. The 2000 strong crowd, highly appreciative of the run of play, formed an appropriate gallery. They followed the leading threesome, the other two being Ki Sup Kim of Korea and Mohammed Yusoff Junaidi of Malaysia and literally followed every shot with bated breath.

After all, Rajiv Mohta and Rishi Narain had already completed their rounds and played jolly well too. What now remained was for Lakshman, nicknamed Bunny, to apply the coup de grace and the honours were eventually his and India's.

But the Scotsman who first thought of this game must have been a sadist. For Lakshman not to get a birdie from twelve feet on the fifteenth was acceptable but how could anyone miss a two foot putt which would have given him the par and assured security?

And suddenly, with this single, one over, the air was transformed even surcharged. Doubts, despondency, fear, along with ifs and buts, began to assail nearly everyone following the fortunes of the Indian.

The minds of the discerning and knowledgeable went quickly back, searching for evidence of impending disasters. One did not have to look too far back. Had not Nick Price of South Africa virtually handed over the £2,50,000 British Open for 1982, held only a few months ago at the Royal Troon, Scotland, to Tom Watson under nearly identical circumstances? As one recalls, Price had a three shot lead with six holes to go but he just blew apart, crumbled and collapsed. Not only did the lead evaporate, but poor Price failed even in his desperate attempt to get a birdie on the last hole which would have enabled him to tie with Watson. This was not due to any spectacular golf by the latter.

Would Lakshman Singh go the same way? As he drove to the right



Lakshman Singh on his way to the first of his two gold medals

edge of the sixteenth, leaving himself with another difficult and blind approach shot to the green, and as his approach shot barely missed the green and the bunker on its right, it appeared that Lakshman was under terrible pressure.

But then, doubts vanished as easily as a morning mist as a chip and a putt gave him his par. He regained his composure and confidence and the crowd heaved a sigh of relief. The shot from the highly dangerous seventeenth turned the tide. Lakshman, like the champion that he is, drove five feet from the pin and birdied the hole, thus regaining the lost shot. The eighteenth saw him set another easy par, thus regaining the lost shot. The eighteenth saw him get another easy par, thereby giving him the top honours with an aggregate of 291 (76,71,70,74).

No less praise is due to Rajiv Mohta, who put a stamp on his consistency with a final brilliant round of a sub par 71. His silver was attained with a 294 aggregate (73,78,72,71). Full marks also for matchless consistency to Rishi Narain who brought in a card of 297 (74,74,75,74).

In the glory of India getting the team championship with a net score of 878, one must not forget that Tetsuo Sakata of Japan won the bronze from Rishi Narain by an excellent chip and putt on the final

72nd hole to bring in a net score of 296 (70,74,77,75). But for those two shots, India would have swept all three medals.

The Republic of Korea contingent returned a net score of 893 for the silver and Malaysia 902 for the bronze.

The biggest disappointment were the Japanese, despite Sakata's individual bronze. N. Kimura, M. Naito and K. Oie played far too patchy golf to give any support to Sakata. The Koreans and the Malaysians, though better than the Japanese, just could not get going well enough collectively to prove any real threat to India, in the final analysis.

Pakistani champion Taimur Hussain did not do justice to his proven prowess. His compatriot Mohammed Aziz, despite striking a purple patch in the final round with a 70 which proved to be the best round of the day, was no match for the others on this tight course.

All in all, the home team displayed guts, stamina and ability to both sustain and bear pressure, individually and collectively, to walk away with all the prizes but one. Amit Luthra should not be disheartened by his indifferent performance. His contribution of 74 on the second day, after all, did add up to the final tally. Well done India.

BRIG J PRATAP

## EQUESTRIAN

**N**ONE amongst the 'horsey' pundits had gone beyond cautious optimism while forecasting or discussing the prospects of the Indian team. Everyone seemed to be considering the Japanese as favourites. The Koreans had withdrawn ostensibly due to the phenomenal costs involved in air-lifting the horses. The field, hence, was clear for Japan to walk through the equestrian events. The Iraqis gave a scare to everyone by destroying one horse in mid-air and landing with nearly a dozen of the best West German breed reportedly 17 hands tall (a hand is approximately 4 inches).

When asked, the knowledgeable amongst the horsemen, old and new, would guardedly prophecy that India might be amongst the medals. "Gold? oh yes, love to think of it but really, how can we? After all, the Japanese have had international experience for so long and see what happened to us in Moscow in 1980. Frankly, the answer must be a clear 'No'." Even I, an incorrigible optimist, had to agree, reluctantly.

That was the pre-Asiad general assessment of India's chances.

But morning of November 22, set all doubts to rest. The second part of the three day event, the Endurance Test buried the ghost of Japanese superiority. Captain Khan had earlier told me that this would be the main competition of the event.

This was how it went for Capt Khan, in his own words: "I commenced Phase A of the Endurance Test at 10 30 a m. I had to cover 4400 metres on roads and tracks in 20 minutes—at an average speed of 220



*Nadia Al Mutwa of Kuwait, who won gold in the individual show jumping event*

metres per second. Quite easy. I incurred no penalty points.

"Phase B started at 10 50 a m. In this I had to cover 2680 metres in 4 minutes. I had to negotiate 8 jumps and maintain an average speed of 670 metres per minute. No penalty points.

"Thus, I entered Phase C at 10 54 a m. This comprised riding for 8.8 km in 40 minutes at an average speed of 220 metres per minute. No penalty points were incurred. It was now 11 34 a m and Phase D was to commence after 10 minutes' break. In this phase I had to negotiate 25



*India's equestrian team after receiving their medals*



obstacles, spaced over a distance of 6050 metres, in 11 minutes. That meant an average speed of 550 metres per minute.

"During the 10 minute break I learned that none of the Japanese had even qualified and all the three other members of my team—Naib Subedar, Bishal Singh, ASC, Dafedar Milkha Singh, Presidents Body Guard and Lance Dafedar Raghubir Singh of 61 Cavalry who had preceded me, had completed the course. I knew that I must complete the course somehow with minimum penalty points. This was the most demanding phase of the Endurance Test. I was a little apprehensive since my mare "Goodwill" was not in as good a form as last year. For a fleeting moment I thought of the gold, but the more pressing concern was to prevent disqualification. A horse refusing to jump or to cross an obstacle more than thrice would mean disqualification from the entire event. There were 25 obstacles to overcome. All the Japanese had failed.

"I commenced the last phase at 11.44 a.m. with a silent prayer and God was kind enough. I completed the course incurring only 26 penalty points for being late by one minute and a few seconds. Raghubir had incurred only 25 points. I knew then that having something unforeseen the gold was ours in any case—the individual Gold would go to Raghu-



bir and Silver would be mine. The last portion of the three day event—Show Jumping was scheduled for the next day and I was not expecting any changes from the position obtained at the end of the Endurance Test. I was tired but happy.

"On a remarkable day, out of a total of 23 competitors who started on Phase D, only 14 came out of the woods and 10 of these were Indians. The only team to complete the course was India. All others were disqualified. You could have dropped me with a feather. As per normal rules India would be the only country entitled to a medal. Some big concessions were made to enable Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines to remain in the team event, but with heavy penalty point. Thus on this

glorious day in Indian equestrian history, India stood at 359.5 penalty points, Japan with 1414.90, Philippines 1455.57 and Indonesia 1645.90 penalty points.

"With such a big lead, the jumping portion of the three day event was a mere formality as far as India was concerned. The next morning would certainly bring the first gold for India during the Ninth Asian. But no one seemed to realise that.

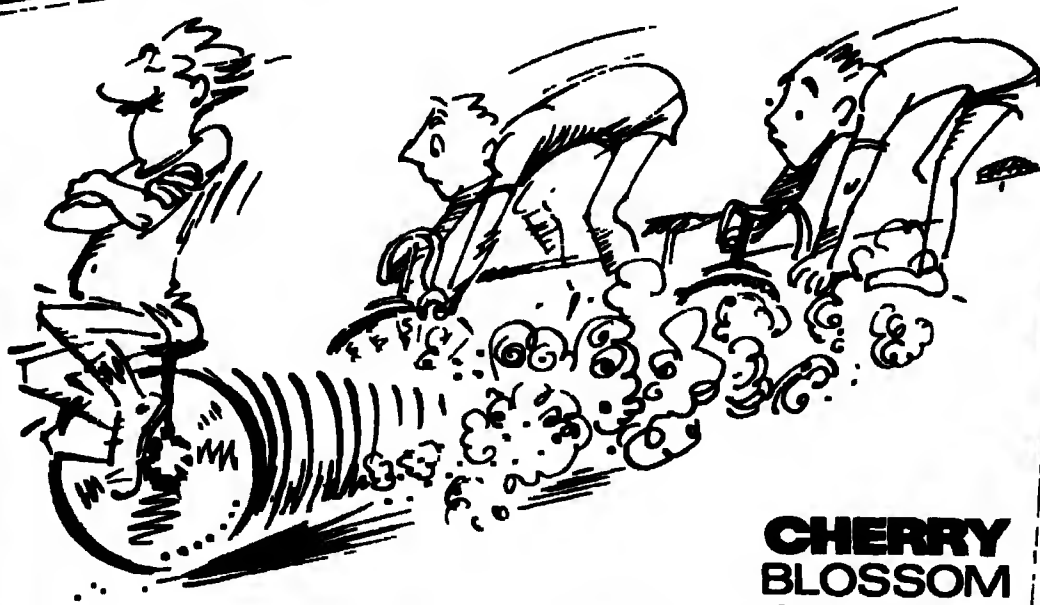
"If the Indians had sprung a surprise, in the men's section it was left to three Kuwaiti young ladies to steal the show in the women's Nadia (19) and Gamila (18) are Al Mutawa sisters. They picked up the Gold and Silver, while Barah Al Sabah, daughter of the Kuwaiti Defence Minister, got the Bronze. Absolutely captivating. The Indians were quite overwhelmed.

"For the grand finale, Maj Rupri Brar of the 61 Cavalry, kept his tryst with Gold in the Tent Pegging event on Nov. 27, just pipping the brilliant Pakistani Akhtar Brar. Had no failures. Silver was for Pakistan and Bronze for Iraq."

What of the future? Bright, if we get a good blood-line in equine breeding. We cannot rest content with the type of horses we have here. Let us import good horses and train hard for Los Angeles. We have men who can take India to glory.

BRIG J PRATAP

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## PAST & PRESENT

IX ASIAN GAMES 1982 DELHI

**N**OW coming to the world of musclemen, China's 23-year old Shude Wu smashed two Asian records in the 56 kg Bantamweight group with a total lift of 267.5 kg. On the other hand, North Korean strongman Kwi Young entered his name in the record book by lifting 152.5 kg in clean and jerk.

But the man who created a sensation in weightlifting competition was Yao Jing Yuyan of China. He set as many as four records and, even more impressive, one of them was a new Asian mark. In the 67.5 kg group Yuyan lifted 137.5 kg in snatch and 170 kg in clean and jerk to take his total to a record 307.5 kg. In his fourth attempt he lifted 176.5 kg to make a new Asian record.

China's dominance in the weightlifting competition was further understood when Chen Weiguo created a new Games record and won the gold in the 60 kg category by making a total lift of 282.5 kg (122.5 kg in snatch and 160 in the clean and jerk).

This record also equals the existing Asian mark. The previous Games record of 275 kg was set by K. Kiri of Japan in the 1974 Tehran Games. The gold in the clean and jerk went to Lee Yungku of South Korea when he established a new Games record as well as an Asian record by lifting 112.5 kg.

On the fifth day of the Games three Asian Games records and one Asian mark were created in the 67.5 kg weight category. The hero was Yao Jingyuan of China. He lifted 137.5 kg in snatch, 170 kg in clean and jerk making a total lift of 307.5 kg. He also bettered the Asian record in

clean and jerk in his fourth attempt by lifting 176.5 kg which is also a new Asian Games mark.

THE swimming events of the day saw four more Games records to be set, with the Japanese clinching five of the six golds to take their tally to 10. The Japanese were in a devastating mood and they could well have secured all the golds, but for the 15-year-old schoolgirl of South Korea, Youn Hee Choi, who won the laurels in the 200m backstroke for women by creating a new meet record of 2min 21.96 seconds—1.16 seconds better than the previous record set in the Bangkok Games by Hisae Aseri of Japan.

Of the four records set in the swimming competitions, three were by the Japanese swimmers. Mika Saito won the gold in the 400m free-style for women by clocking 4min 25.72 secs, improving upon her own new mark secured in the heats by 4.44 seconds.

In the 200m backstroke for men, 21-year-old Hidetoshi Takahashi, a Meiji University student of Japan, won the top honours clocking 2min 08.33 seconds and thereby bettered his own record time of 2:09.12 set in the heats.

The gold in the 200m butterfly stroke for men went to

Taihei Saka, a Nihon University student of Japan. He clinched it in a record time of 2min 04.97 seconds, thereby slicing 1.71 seconds off the previous mark—2:06.68 set by his compatriot Shinsuke Kyama in the Bangkok Games.

A NEW Asian record was set in the 1000m time trial of cycling by Tsutomu Sakamoto of Japan. His timing was one minute 09.15 seconds, exactly two seconds less than the previous Asian Games mark secured by Korea in the Bangkok Asian.

The sixth day of the Delhi extravaganza also witnessed the swimming scene at the Lal Katora Gardens to be dominated by the Japanese swimmers. Hiroko Nagasaki of Japan, who had already set a new record in the 200m breast stroke, finished the 100m breast-stroke event for women in one minute 12.12 seconds, bettering the previous mark of one minute 16.04 seconds achieved by her compatriot Chieko Wantanabe in the last Games.

The other swimming stars who made their way to the record book were Naomi Semido (800m free style heats) and the members of the Japanese team in the 4x100m relay. Yumi Oka Aki, Chekako Nakamori, Mika Saito and K Yanase

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## YACHTING

**T**HE Asian Games Yachting events were held in Bombay Harbour and featured 38 boats from 13 countries vying for the honours in the four categories Fireball, Enterprise, OK Dinghy and Windglider.

No one quite dominated the field like Farokh Tarapore and Zarir Karanjia of India in the Fireball class, in which there were eight entries. Tarapore and Karanjia made a clean sweep by winning all the seven races by a comfortable margin. Each participant is allowed to discard one timing and the one with the minimum penalty points from the remaining six races is declared the winner.

As things turned out Tarapore did not exercise this option. By finishing first in all the races he had no penalty points to his credit. Tarapore 23 and Karanjia 20 triumphed solely due to their superior technique.

But the gold medal was not what Tarapore was after. "Winning a medal means very little to me. As a boat the Fireball is a high performance boat and to achieve perfection on such a boat is an achievement. On such a demanding boat mistakes make a big difference, I guess we made fewer mistakes than the others," said Tarapore.

Yagi and Tanaka of Japan won the silver medal in this class, while Has-



The Fireballs taking off

din and Surapol of Thailand secured the bronze.

The Enterprise class saw the fiercest competition with Byram Avani and his wife Goshpi of Pakistan, India's Unwalla brothers Jejee and Fali and Japan's Inoue and Baba in the fray. Byram Avani had won the gold in the Enterprise category at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games.

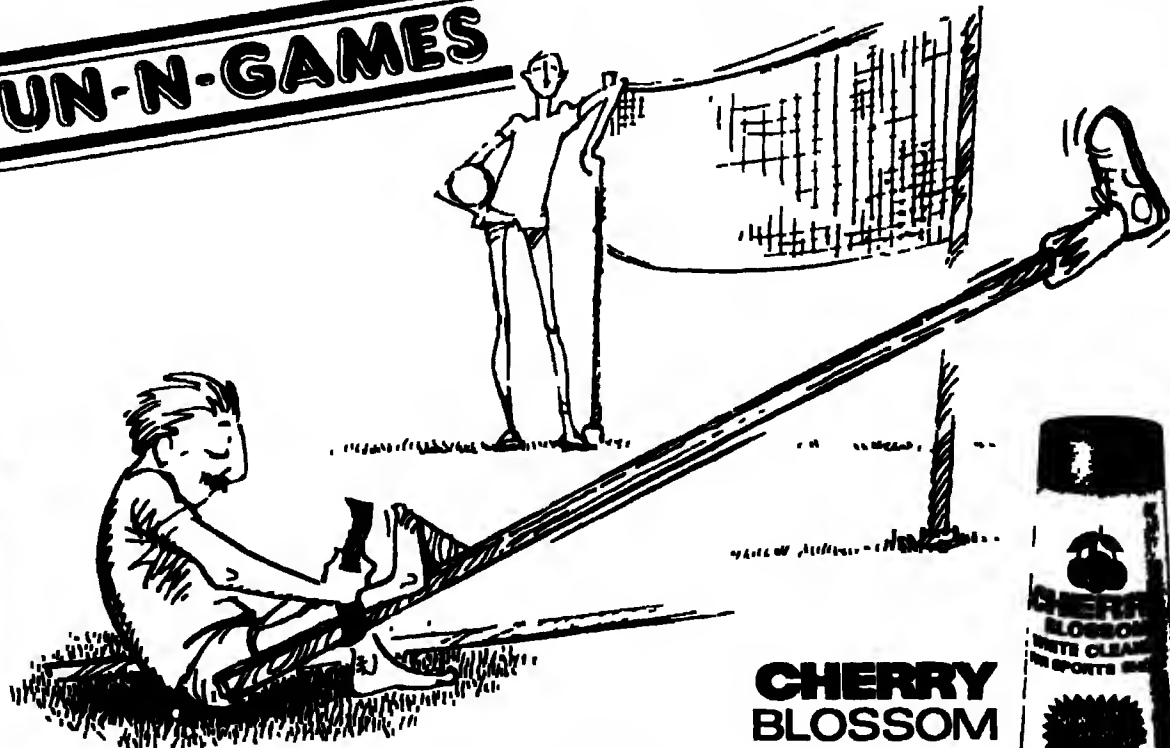
The Unwallas put up a stiff fight, but in the final analysis it was the experience of Byram that triumphed. The Avanis finished first in five of the seven races while the Japanese

team was placed first in the other two races. But in terms of overall consistency, the Unwallas had a better record, finishing second in six races which gave them the silver medal and Japan had to rest content with the bronze.

Said Jejee, 21: "We are disappointed, that we were not able to bag the gold. When you are battling against elements of nature, besides the other competitors, luck plays a vital role. And it was not our lucky week."

In the OK Dinghy, Pakistan's Kha-

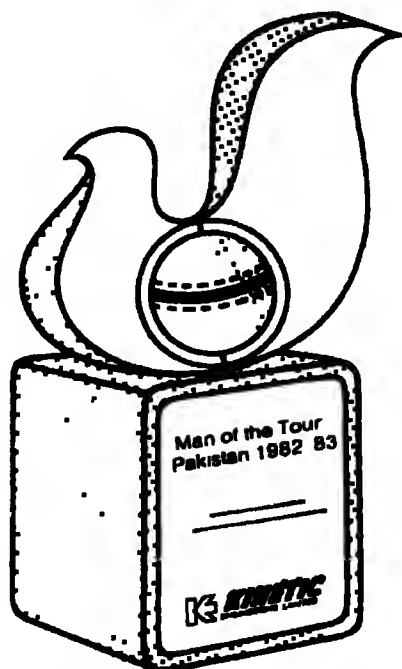
# FUN-N-GAMES



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lid Akhtar bagged the gold medal Nagatsu of Japan, the gold medalist at Bangkok secured the silver while India's C. S. Pradipak got the bronze medal. Pradipak who never won a single race felt "My boat was not tuned well and as such was not travelling too fast in the water. With out taking away any credit from Akhtar, he won because his boat was well tuned"

Japan's Tsunemoto Ishiwata won the gold medal in the Windglider event, with Policarpio Ortega of the Philippines finishing second and Hong Kong's Ken Choi third India's Deepak Dikhit was placed fifth in this category. In fact, Dikhit even managed to win the last of the seven races.

The races were conducted in light winds, which varied in speed from six to ten knots, except on the last day when the wind was a bit strong.

As usual there were gatecrashers galore on the Press boat. The Government of India's Press Information Bureau (PIB) turned the exercise into a picnic. While genuine sports correspondents, covering the event, were told that all Press passes had been exhausted ten days before the races commenced, vague publications, some of whom don't have a regular sports page, were able to secure a pass as late as the half way stage of the regatta. What's more families of PIB officials, defence per-



Pradipak of India in his OK Dinghy

sonnel and a few "journalists" were premitted on the Press boat, thus making a mockery of the passes that were given to genuine reporters, not to mention the hindrance it caused them.

**HARESH MUNWANI**

## TENNIS

**S**HORTLY after Indonesia had retained the gold in the men's team event, the veteran Indonesian coach Sujono admitted that at no stage was he confident of the outcome of the final. "I reckoned my boys had a 60-40 chance but that was about all," he explained.

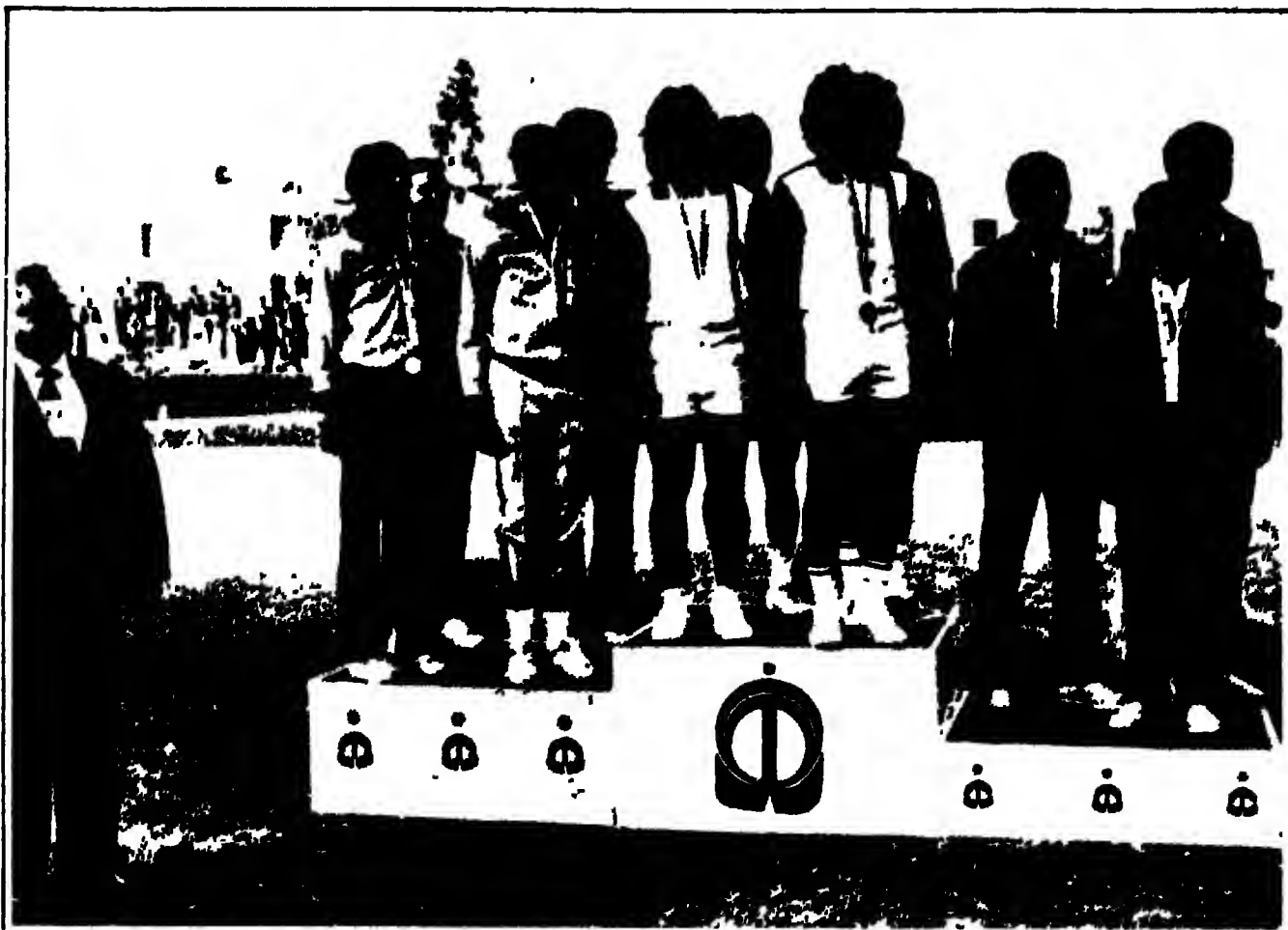
Continued coach Sujono, "One reason why we managed to adapt successfully to the playing conditions here was that our boys have been playing for some time on a synthetic surface that is very similar to grass. Thus they were able to judge what was going to be expected of them once they reached New Delhi. As any tennis players will tell you, playing on grass is a completely different experience from any other surface." Certainly, the two weeks' experience on the imported surface helped the Indonesian men. So too did their training in Alabama. But what helped them to retain their title, more than anything else, was nerves on the part of top seed for the individual event, Nandan Rai.

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**CHERRY BLOSSOM WHITE CLEANER**



The lawn tennis medalists India (silver) Indonesia (gold) and China (bronze)

India went down by two matches to one against the Indonesians, picking up the doubles only after both singles matches had been lost and when nothing really substantial—except prestige of course—was at stake. Despite tremendous support from the home crowd India could do little to stave off defeat in the first two matches.

To begin with, Vasudevan looked rather nervous against the experienced Yusetdjo Tarik. He seemed to be struggling with his first service and as if that was not enough of a problem, he began to lose the edge on his volleying.

These two factors combined to give the Indonesian a sense of confidence and he began to capitalise on Vasudevan's inexplicably indifferent form to break through in the fifth game of the first set. He required only half an hour to wrap up the set at 6-4 and it was clear at this stage that the valiant Vasudevan was in a corner.

In the second, Vasudevan seemed to put everything into his game, varying the pace for good measure, but there was little he could do to reduce the pressure or to get his opponent to slacken off.

Try as he would, he could not break serve, instead surrendering the seventh game. At this stage it was apparent that the first match

was Indonesia's but Vasudevan's fight was not yet over. With Tarik serving for the match at 40 love, the Indian showed an all-too brief spark of brilliance. He somehow found the form that he had been searching for all through, taking the next three points in a row. But that was the end of his aggression, for Tarik took the next two points to put Indonesia one up.

Nandan Bal then took the court for what was obviously the decisive match of the rubber. But it did not take the Indian supporters long to realise that he too, found his form elusive and he managed to muster only four games in the course of a 6-3, 6-1 defeat. It was strange, to say the least, to see Bal fumbling with shots that he would normally hit with the greatest of ease and his tennis on the day lacked the stamp of authority.

Tintus was quick to spot the weakness and indecision on the part of his opponent and turned it to his advantage. With absolutely nothing to lose and with his country already one up in the final, he put the pressure on Nandan. The latter looked like making a fight of it in the second set, but by then it was too late and even he could do nothing except delay the inevitable.

In the doubles, Tarik continued to serve as well as he had in his earlier

match, but he and his partner Hadiman lost to Enrico Piperno and Nandan Bal in straight sets, the Indians winning the second set on the tie-breaker.

If anything, the quarter-final between Indonesia and Philippines produced better tennis and greater suspense. Both singles matches were closely fought, each one going the full distance, with the Indonesians receiving several scares along the way. That both matches were decided in favour of the Indonesians with an identical score of 6-4 in the final set will indicate how evenly matched the players were.

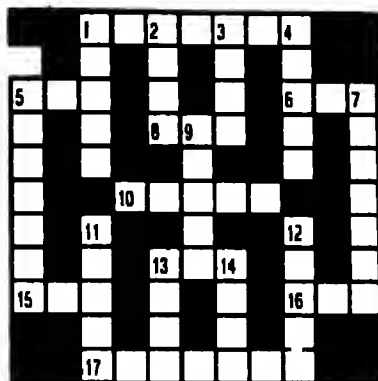
India, who swept Thailand aside with ease to take all three matches in the other quarter-final were then left with the prospect—never an easy one—of taking on the spirited Chinese in the semis. But the Indians really produced something out of the ordinary that day. First Vasudevan played like a man inspired to snuff out You Wei 6-1, 6-3. The Chinese player was unlucky to meet Vasudevan on a day when everything went right for the Indian and try though he did to slow down the game, there was nothing he could do to prevent Vasudevan's ace at match-point. Nandan Bal then pulled off a 7-6, 1-6, 8-6 victory against the tall Liu Shuhua, but that was the end of India's good fortune.



# Crossword

MUDAR

175



## ACROSS

- 1 Olympic marathon champion at Munich has an odd sounding name for a long distance runner (7)
- 5 Paternal sounding golfing term (3)
- 6 Country from where basketball originated (1,1,1)
- 8 Larwood of Bodyline fame was nicknamed as? (3)
- 10 Delhi batsman Gursharan Singh is nicknamed as? (5)
- 13 The super of a soccer game is contraction of? (3)
- 15 A Barmy and a Rosewall have something in common (3)
- 16 A prayer for a name for a leading table tennis player in India (3)
- 17 Soviet fencer who died some months back to a head injury sustained during a competition (7)

## DOWN

- 1 To undress for a pitch termed crudely (5)
- 2 A motor company that sponsors that race drivers too and the latter part of whose name is Ascona (4)
- 3 Animal organ for a part of the batting order (4)
- 4 Former Wimbledon female player whose name is also of geometric relevance (5)
- 5 The middle name of John McEnroe Jr (7)
- 7 Country of adoption of Martina Navratilova, the woman tennis player (7)
- 9 Colin Milburn of cricket fame was often called this because of a bulging waist (5)
- 11 This person's name begins with James Ray and he ran the 100 metres in 9.95 seconds at Mexico City in 1968 (5)
- 12 She won the women's title at Wimbledon in 1977 (4,1)
- 13 This Kumar is a leading Indian chess player (4)
- 14 Nationality of Paavo Nurmi, great athlete (4)

Excellent 20-18, Good 17-16, Fair 15-14

# Question box

Sudhar Vaidya

Aparna, Jaipur, Deepak D Nivskar, Bangalore

Q Could you please state the address of Dilip Vengsarkar?

A You may write to him care of Bombay Cricket Association, Wankhede Stadium, Churchgate, Bombay 400 020

K N A Narayanan, Calcutta

Q Can you please tell me what is the highest score by Brijesh Patel in Ranji Trophy and in Tests with all the detailed particulars?

A Brijesh Patel made his highest score of 115 not out for India in Tests against the West Indies in 1975-76. In Ranji Trophy, his highest score is 216 made against Baroda at Bangalore in 1978-79.

Vijay Bajpai, Arvi

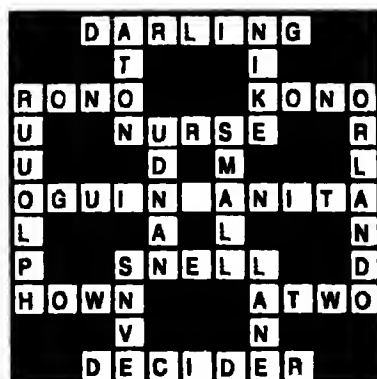
Q What is the definition of a "no-ball"? If the last ball is declared a no-ball, then is an additional ball allowed?

A An exact definition is not given in the "Laws of Cricket". There are, however, various occasions when a no-ball can be declared by an umpire such as the mode of delivery, fair delivery with the arm, fair delivery with regard to the feet, throwing, infringement of the Laws by the wicket-keeper, fieldsmen, etc. If the last ball of an over is declared a no-ball then an additional ball is given by the umpire.

Q After the conclusion of the Test against Sri Lanka, what are the batting records of Gavaskar and Vishwanath?

A Gavaskar has made 6951 runs at the average of 53.88 in 139 innings (with 10 times not out) in 79 Tests with 25 centuries, 30 half centuries and seven ducks, 221 being his highest score. Vishwanath's score is 5946 runs made at the average of 43.40 in 147 innings, 10 times not out in 85 Tests with 14 centuries, 34 half centuries and eight ducks, and with 222 being his highest score.

## SOLUTION 174



Q. How many half centuries have been scored by M G Burgess in Tests? A. Five centuries in 53 Tests

Salim Ahmed, Bareilly

Q. Please let me know the number of players declared lbw in the Test series between India and the West Indies in India, against Australia in India and against Pakistan in India.

A Four Indians and nine West Indians were declared lbw in the six-Test series in India in 1978-79, nine Indians and 22 Australians were adjudged lbw in the six-Test series in India in 1979-80, nine Indians and 19 Pakistanis in the six-Test series in India in 1979-80.

N Banerjee, Calcutta

Q Who were the 100th victims of Sobers, Botham and Vinoo Mankad?

A P I Philpott of Australia was Sobers' 100th victim in the first Test at Kingston in 1964-65. Sunil Gavaskar of India was Botham's 100th victim in the second Test at Leeds in 1979 and Waqar Hasan of Pakistan was Mankad's 100th victim in Bombay in 1952-53.

Q When did they complete 1000 runs, at the time of achieving their "double"?

A Sobers had already scored 1000 runs earlier in the third Test against Pakistan at Kingston in 1957-58. Botham reached the 1000-run mark in the fourth Test against India at The Oval in 1979, i.e., after completing his 100 wickets, and Vinoo Mankad had completed his 1000 runs in the second Test against England at Lord's in 1952, i.e., before reaching his 100 wickets.

# Quiz

Hard

## QUESTIONS

Unscramble the jumbles and find out terms related to sports and games.

- 1 PESEW
- 2 POTREPS
- 3 BIRDBEL
- 4 EKROYR
- 5 SELIBANE
- 6 SELIBANE
- 7 KRIN
- 8 WORTHROVE
- 9 UNDORE
- 10 NOORATTI
- 11 TREESLYF

## ANSWERS

- 10 FREESTYLE
- 9 ROTATION
- 8 REBOUND
- 7 OVERTHROW
- 6 RINK
- 5 BASELINE
- 4 YORKER
- 3 DRIBBLE
- 2 STOPPER
- 1 SWEEP

T. Sharma, Amilight.

Q. If a striking batsman hits the stumps of the non-striking batsman at the other end, can the batsman at the non-striking end be given out if he is out of his crease?

A. No

Q. If a batsman loses his bat from his hands, in the attempt of going for a run, and completes his run without a bat in his hands will the run be counted?

A. Yes

K. Vanagopal, Kandapura

Q. How many Tests has Chandu Borde played and in how many Tests did he lead India?

M. P. Madhavar, Nagarsoli.

Q. Where and when did Gary Sobers hit six sixes in an over? Who was the unfortunate bowler?

A. At Swansea in 1968 and the unfortunate bowler was M. A. Nash of Glamorgan

Q. When did D. G. Bradman make his Test debut?

A. Bradman made his Test debut in the first Test against England at Brisbane in 1928-29

Sapen Kumar Ghosh, Dumka.

Q. Name the cricketer who has played for India and England in Tests?

A. Iftikhar Ali Khan Pataudi, i.e., the Nawab of Pataudi senior

R. K. Sharma, Hyderabad.

Q. Give the names of the Indian bowlers who took Don Bradman's wickets in 1947-48

A. Bradman was dismissed hit wicket bowled Amarnath for 185 at Brisbane, was bowled by Hazare for 13 at Sydney, was lbw to Phadkar for 132 and was unbeaten for 127 at Melbourne, was bowled by Hazare for 201 at Adelaide and at Melbourne in the last Test, was retired hurt for 57

Sijmonta Kumar Das

Q. Who was the manager of the Indian cricket team in the second Test against England at Bombay in 1961-62?

A. Raj Singh Dungarpur

## Bridge

Baris Schapiro

New books by H. W. Kelsey are always a pleasure and I have recently received *The Needle Match* (Faber and Faber, £7.50). He invites you to play the 64 hands of an imaginary Gold Cup final, first attempting to solve a problem in play or defence before reading the solution. And some of them really are sticky! I made the following deal one of the easiest and yet — dare I say it? — I'm not convinced that all my partners would get it right at the table.

East-West game  
Dealer West

N  
W S E  
S

♠ Q J 10 4  
♥ Q 9 8 3  
♦ K J  
♣ Q J 2

♠ A  
♥ K 10 6 4  
♦ 9 8 7 4  
♣ A 8 7 3

Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	pass	2♠	pass
2♦	pass	3NT	all pass

\*13-15 points

North leads the nine of spades to your Ace. How do you plan the defence?

SOLUTION

"This is mainly a matter of counting points. Dummy has 12 and you have 11, making a total of 23. So even if declarer has his minimum of 13, you cannot expect partner to have more than 4 points. And there is just one precise form these 4 points can take if you have any chance of defeating three no trumps. Partner will need to have the Ace of hearts along with two small cards in the suit.

"Since this is the only hope, you should switch at trick two to the King of hearts. If you are in luck you will be able to play a second heart to partner's Ace, and the heart continuation will establish a fifth trick for the defence before declarer can scramble his ninth.

FULL HAND

♠ 9 8 7 6 3  
♥ A 5 2  
♦ 6 5 3  
♣ 9 4

♠ K 5 2  
♥ J  
♦ A Q 10 2  
♣ K 10 6 5

N  
W S E  
S

♠ Q J 10 4  
♥ Q 9 8 3  
♦ K J  
♣ Q J 2

♠ A  
♥ K 10 6 4  
♦ 9 8 7 4  
♣ A 8 7 3

Last week's quiz. As South you held ♠ 10 4, ♥ K 10 9 4, ♦ K Q 6 3, ♣ K 9 5. North opened 2NT, you explored with three clubs and heard your partner rebid three hearts. South is certainly worth a move towards a slam now that a fit has been established. He could try four diamonds, showing where most of his strength lies, but I think that I prefer a raise of five hearts — suggesting that it is only a shortage of controls that is holding me back.

Even if partner is minimum in terms of points he should accept it, for example, his hand includes all four aces.

This week's quiz. At game all, as South, you hold ♠ A 8 6 4 2, ♥ A 10, ♦ 8 6 2, ♣ A K 3. West deals and opens one heart, East raises to two hearts and you double. In reply your partner bids three hearts — how do you proceed?

## Chess

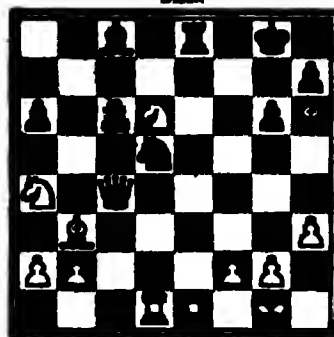
Peter Clarke

Second on my chronological list of great players from the USA is Harry Nelson Pillsbury (1872-1906). His career was similar in several respects to that of Paul Morphy, his illustrious predecessor, both masters came to Europe as young men seeking recognition and achieved sensational successes; both left the arena all too soon, neither could take the final step to becoming World Champion — if of course, Morphy was briefly, as such before the title was established. Pillsbury's meteoric rise occurred in 1895, when he took part in the exceptionally strong international tournament at Hastings and finished alone in first place with 16½/21, followed by Chigorin 16, Lasker 15½, Tarrasch 14, Steinitz 13 and, well down the list, Schlechter, Janowski and Gunsberg. This performance earned Pillsbury an invitation to the quadrangular tourney in

St Petersburg at the end of the year, and there he managed to win his six-game clashes with Lasker and Chigorin but was pushed into third place as a result of his heavy defeat by Steinitz. Although other fine efforts confirmed his status as one of the best players of his time, he remained overshadowed by Lasker and never got the chance to challenge the World Champion. It has been speculated that Pillsbury, had he got the opportunity, might have surprised Lasker and wrested the title from him just as some two decades later Alekhine surprised Capablanca. Fate was far less kind. High among Pillsbury's many gifts was the ability to remember facts with phenomenal accuracy. During a visit to Moscow in 1902 he played 22 blindfold games at once, and it was a peculiarity of his to take on opponents at both chess and draughts while also conducting a hand at whist. This extraordinary memorising power helped him to become a dangerous tactician, capable of calculating long forcing variations and pursuing them with ruthless skill. Next week's article will examine his style and illustrate it with one of his best games.

Competition 6847. Solution next week.

Black



White

White to play and win. Grade 3 (medium)

Solution to 6846 (Black) — Black, Poles, 1913. 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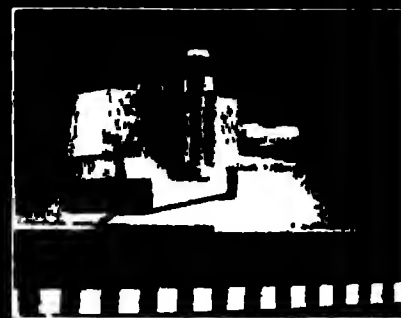
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## Regional round-up

### MADRAS

#### Simpson Trophy

**A**S December replaces November, chilly weather takes the place of rain in Madras. So after a wet month, the focus was again on cricket in the first week of December. Main interest was on the Simpson Trophy tournament semi-finals. The matches, played on one innings of 75 overs each, have become popular with the players since they were introduced two years ago and good batting performances highlighted the two semi-finals. India Pistons defeated Districts XI and Alwarpet got the better of TNCA XI, by identical margins of six wickets to set up a final clash. Districts XI led by a fine unbeaten 108 by former State star Srinivasan were able to post a good score of 270 for seven in the 75 overs. But with another former State batsman M. O. Panchayath, the even more splendid former India Pistons overhauled this total for a score of only four wickets in 66 overs. Panchayath's slam on the last ball of the match, a six, was the only stroke that counted. He had to thank the umpire for not giving him the ball. Woh! was the cry of the spectators as they cheered the batsman. The depleted Alwarpet team, on the other hand, were able to post a good score of 228 in 75 overs. The match was a close contest and the Alwarpet Cricket Club with a score of 190 had little difficulty in winning the match with 19 runs to spare.

#### Benefit match

**T**HE match of Laxmi Nades Ranji trophy against Karnataka will be a benefit match for former Indian cricketer A. G. Milkha Singh. Milkha, now 31, is a public relations officer with State Bank of India, Madras. He played four Tests against Australia, Pakistan and England between 1961 and 1963. More importantly he lent pace and strength to the Laxmi Nades batting in the decade 1958-1968. The benefit would be held at Madras over Christmas weekend.

(A. G. MILKHA SINGH)

### BOMBAY

#### Another win

**P**LAYING steadily over the final stretch Phil Pilling won the 12th Western India Wills Open at the Bombay Presidency Golf Club.

Mandolkar who had seized the initiative in such grand fashion, however, let the game slip away. He couldn't get up and down from the bunker for par on the 15th, an erring second shot to the mishaps on the previous hole he missed a liddlet for par on the 17th. Pilling, who had dropped a shot on the 17th drove into the fair way bunker on the 18th from where he made a masterful birdie to finish like a champion.

Unfortunately, the paltry prize money of Rs 15,500 deterred a lot of the outstation professionals. Apart from a few from Delhi none of the pros from Calcutta, Madras and Bangalore made the trip to the B.P.G.C.'s golf course.

However, the depleted field was adequately compensated by the presence of two seasoned British amateurs—Malcolm Lewis and Arthur Pierson.

(ARVIND SETHI)

### CALCUTTA

#### Lady luck

**T**HE RCTC were at it again. On the seventh day of the Autumn Meeting, they withdrew the licence of jockey Philip Allford minutes after he had ridden Be My Lady (which came second to Ebony Sky) in the Apple A Day Handicap at the Calcutta race course. The stewards felt that the jockey concerned did not allow his mount to run on her merits. Allford was accused of deliberately chopping the Lady's hack and running her into the heels of other horses.

There is ample evidence to prove that the Lady has run such a type of race in the not too distant past and the action, to say the least, is harsh. Allford seems to be in the bad books of the RCTC, because and one is quite sure that Robin Corner would never met with the same treatment if he was riding the filly. Surely not a case of justice for all.

#### T. T. Tournay

**T**ABLE tennis is, undoubtedly, one of the most popular indoor games in this city. With a view to improving the all round standard of the game and fostering a sense of goodwill and friendship, the centrally located Gail Club organised, yet again, an Inter Club Table Tennis Tournament. There were no 'stars' taking part but this in no way deterred the lesser known lights from drilling out a decent standard of the game. Zal Vanna who played for Calcutta Parses Club was the only ex-State player to take part.

The week long tournament attracted 8 teams with the Parses proving themselves to be a cut above the rest. Christ the King Parish Club's enthusiasm was rewarded when they were proud runners up and Clayton Hilt a stylish left hander from the same club was awarded a cash prize for being the best player of the tournament.

(DEREK O BRIEN)

### DELHI

#### Ranji Trophy

**W**ith the chill winds that suddenly put winter into full swing the day after the closing ceremony of the Asian Games, cricket hurt into the sports scene of the north. In the type of weather when a single pill over is not enough protection against the cold, Punjab's cricketers took five points off National Champions Delhi in their North Zone Ranji Trophy league match at the Ferozeshah Kotla.

After trailing by 133 runs on the first innings the Delhi batting came into its own on the third day. Delhi were 209 for two (Raman Lamba 107 not out, Chetan Chaudhan 76) when the match ended in a draw, but three points was cold comfort.

Earlier, Delhi had won five points from their match against Haryana at Chandigarh. Eight points from matches is not a benefitting start to a season for the National Champions led by Chetan Chaudhan in the absence of Mohinder Amarnath who is on tour in Pakistan.

While Punjab were getting the better of Delhi, not far away at the Karnail Singh Stadium, Madhya Pradesh denied Railways an outright victory. Railways, leading to win the top spot in the Central Zone, declared their second innings at 332 for two after being restricted to 196 in the first. Only one wicket stood between the Railways and victory in the end, Madhya Pradesh being 274 for nine at the close of play on the third and last day.

Rohit Lalwani 74 figured in two of the three partnerships that foiled the Railways bid for victory. With Dave (54) he was concerned in a century stand for the seventh wicket after he had put on 59 for the fourth wicket with stout support from M. Hassan (54).

The most enjoyable phase of the match was when the dynamic Rajeshwar Vats forced the pace for Railways in the second innings. His unbeaten 178 included four sixes and 27 four's strokes made with the power of his ample shoulders.

# ALL IN THE GAME

## TIE BREAKER

### *Knotted up*

The 'tie episode' which has been bugging many top snooker and billiard players and which has been mentioned in these columns before has surfaced again.

The latest news is that the World professional Billiards and Snooker Association has ruled that even a doctor's certificate is insufficient excuse for not wearing a tie. *The Sunday Times* did not pull their punches when they nominated the Association for this year's Bertie Wooster Satirical Absurdity Award.

Since the hassle started 'rebel' players like Alex Higgins have been exempted from wearing ties after producing certificates from their doctor's. The certs say that rashes, boils and other such complaints develop if a tie is worn. Under the new ruling the players will have to satisfy the official doc of the WPBSA.

The doctor who has been selected for this none too easy job is a certain Dr Burges. To make matters worse even the consultancy fees have to be borne by the players concerned. One feels the WPBSA is stretching its luck too far. Dr Burges who watched Higgins play on television before admits he never really bothered to notice whether Higgins wore a tie or not and dismisses the whole thing as "a lot of bloody nonsense".

## THE LOTOS EATERS

### *Spurs Sleepwalk*

The British Press were at it again Tottenham

Hotspurs started the match against WBA in whirlwind fashion. When the game was just 20 seconds old (all young should be say) Galvin put the Spurs ahead.

The goal scored, and then according to *The Gaurdian*—"a kiss and a cuddle are the best cure of insomnia." There was much kissing and cuddling after the goal and then for the rest of the match one only saw Spurs sleepwalking. The whole match as it were, was an enigmatic encounter.

Mills was sitting on the WBA bench for the first 72 minutes. He came on in the 73rd and in less than a minute found the equaliser. The Spurs manager Keith Burkinshaw was not very disappointed with the draw with Albion. He said, "My boys worked very hard." We've heard that one before Keith, but then that's what football is all about.

## NO KNEE MENACE

### *For Dennis*

Bob Willis was a beneficiary and so was Clive Lloyd. Added to the list is Dennis Lillee. It's not sponsorship which one is talking about. That would be but to obvious. The big hearted Australian fast bowler can thank the development of a surgical technique called arthroscopy which should really help him recover fast from a serious knee operation. Lillee would not have played big time cricket for quite a few months if it had not been for arthroscopy. But there he was all rearing to go less than two two weeks after the operation.

For the medically inclined, arthroscopic surgery involves the passing of instruments through small incisions in

the joints. The most important of the instruments—believe it or not—is a telescope. The latter helps the surgeon to "have a closer look" while performing the operation with other minor tools.

Making three or four small holes rather than one large incision takes the surgeon more time but sees to it that the capsule of the knee joint is not damaged. In conventional surgery, the cutting of the capsule is so painful that the brain "switches off" from the joint. Anyway, putting aside the medical angle for the time being the end result, Dennis Lillee is once again fighting fit.

## PRETTY AVERAGE

### *Lloyd and Richards*

A letter to the November issue of the



Cricketer magazine points out to a curious coincidence. Clive Lloyd's first class batting figures for 1981 are identical to Viv Richards's for 1982. In both cases there were 31 innings, two not outs, 1,324 runs, and an average of 45.65. The correspondent asks and quite rightly, "I wonder what odds against this amazing coincidence would have been?" Well, over a billion, one should think.

## HORSING AROUND

### *Winning and losing*

Something that does not happen very often in horse racing took place at the Calcutta race course a few weeks ago. There were five horses in the race and a certain bay colt called Neck and Neck was backed to the exclusion of her rivals. This writer who is not a regular railbird also placed a bet on the favourite which was ridden by local jockey Jimmy Reuben.

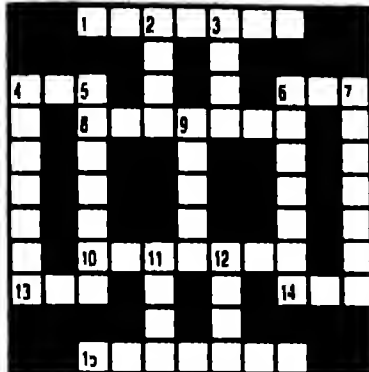
Coming into the home stretch it was Tropical Mist—from the same stable as the favourite—and Neck and Neck both going hell for leather. The lesser backed horse bumped the favourite once, and then once again. But Neck and Neck was still in control. Woe betide! Another bump from Tropical Mist and jockey Reuben and Neck and Neck could manage no longer. The horse buckled down while in the lead barely a hairsbreadth before the winning post. The jockey fell off and as a result was disqualified. Tropical Mist won. Neck and Neck did not even place. Jockey Reuben ended up with collar bone problems and the saddest part was that this writer was poorer by hundred rupees. Better luck next time, I suppose?



# Crossword

MUDAR

176



## ACROSS

- 1 Footballer Zico is also simply known as ? (7)
- 4 Gentleman athlete from England (3)
- 6 Calcutta footballer and also The Greatest (3)
- 8 Porter of the Somerset cricket team begins with a lair (7)
- 10 Greg Chappell, Doug Walters, Sunil Gavaskar—have scored a hundred and a double one in the same Test the answer returning (3,4)
- 13 Ramanathan Krishnan was a captain of this sort of the Indian Davis Cup team after his playing days were over (3)
- 14 This Kodes coming back won Wimbledon in 1973 (3)
- 15 Female tennis player who romanced with pop singer Cliff Richard (6, 1)

## DOWN

- 2 Former England bowler has a relative in the end (4)
- 3 Wicket-keeper of international standing has an egoistic ending (4)
- 4 Brearley may have failed as a batsman but he made for himself as this (7)
- 5 American tennis player whose middle name is simply 'van' (1, 8)
- 6 Hockey tournament held in Bombay annually is named after a religious head (3, 4)
- 7 Hunganan who won the world title at Calcutta in table tennis in 1975 (6, 1)
- 9 Cricketer nicknamed 'Dik' from Pakistan (5)
- 11 Eight balls in Australia cricket (4)
- 12 What precedes 'cha' to give a former Indian cricketer (4)

# Question box

Sudhir Vadya

Dr Ashok K Ghosh, Calcutta 700 005

Q What is the minimum time the ball has to remain in a fielders hands to make the batsman catch out?

A Till the time the umpire is satisfied that the catch held by a fieldman is neat and clean

Q What is the maximum number of wickets taken in one over in Tests?

A Four England bowlers M J Allom, K Cranston, F J Titmus and C M Old have captured as many as four wickets in an over in Test

Basudeb Paul, Howrah 2

Q In 1975-76, India and West Indies series India won the second Test at Port of Spain, how many runs did B P Patel score in the innings?

A Brijesh Patel hit an unbeaten 115 in the said Test

Saqi M Ahmed (Roni), Gwalpura

Q What is the full name of C K Nayudu

A Cottari Kanakaya Nayudu

Kamalkant Sawan, Jullandar City

Q In which Test did Don Bradman score his first Test century? What was his score in the other innings of that Test?

A Bradman scored 112 in the second innings of the third Test against England at Melbourne in 1928-29 It was his second Test and in the first innings he had made 79

Q How many wicket-keepers of India have completed the "double" in Tests

A Only Syed Kirmani has completed the 'double' of 1000 runs and 100 victims behind the stumps with his 1889 runs and 137 victims in 58 Tests

P Ramash, Bombay 400 031

Q How many Indian batsmen have hit more than 12 centuries in Tests?

A Only Gavaskar (25), G R Viswanath (14) and P R Umrigar (12) Have hit 12 or more 100's in Tests for India

Ravish Kumar Mohan, Tinsukia

Q Could you please give me the addresses of Yashpal Sharma Dilip Doshi and Ravi Shastri?

A You may write to the respective associations, who will arrange to reach your letters to the players Yashpal's letter may be addressed to Punjab Cricket Association at Laxmi Nivas, Arya Samaj Park, Patiala 147 001 Doshi's letter may be addressed to the Cricket Association of Bengal, Eden Gardens, Dr B C Roy Club House, Calcutta 700 012 and Ravi Shastri's letter may be addressed to the Bombay Cricket Association, Wankhede Stadium, D Road, Churchgate, Bombay 400 020

Q What is the birth date of Suru Nayak and Randhir Singh?

A Suru Nayak was born on 20 10 1953 and Randhir Singh on 16 8 1958

M S Ghosh, Hyderabad

Q Which was the year Australia played with South Africa last, and never played afterwards so far?

A 1969-70

Q Which was the year Australia had lost

all six Tests with South Africa around 1970?

A 1969-70

Q Which was the year Australia had lost all six Tests with South Africa around 1970?

A 1969-70 in South Africa, when the Australians were defeated in all the four Tests of the 4-Test series It was the 6-Test series, as you have mentioned Narayan Baldya, Tinsukia

Q When and where did Mohammed Nissar make his Test debut and against whom?

A In the only Test against England at Lord's in 1932

Q Please give me the total scores of the Test played between Sri Lanka and England in 1981-82

A Sri Lanka scored 218 and 175 and England replied with 223 and 171 for 3 wickets to win the Test by 7 wickets

# Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

## QUESTIONS

Add the appropriate letter from among the given ten to each jumble in 'A' so that you get the surnames of the great ones of the past hinted at in 'B'

'A'

- 1 TENT
- 2 HUT
- 3 URN
- 4 RAKE
- 5 NINETALE
- 6 AROBOT
- 7 AUDEN
- 8 CHAINAMBER
- 9 ROLLER
- 10 TUNE

(Letters to be added L, L, R, R, V, B, W, H, Y, O)

'B'

Cricketer for West Indies and Jamaica, most respected cricket captain of West Indies, West Indies opener, Australian cricket captain, USSR's football captain, famous middle-distance runner from the USA, bowler still holding a magnificent record in Test cricket, famous French, winner of Wimbledon's men's singles title, U S baseballer, famous for home-run hitting, U S professional basketballer

## ANSWERS

(Letters within brackets added)

- 10 HUNTH (H)
- 6 MORRELL (W)
- 8 CHAMBERLAIN (L)
- 7 BENAUD (B)
- 9 BORROWDALE (R)
- 5 VALENTINE (V)
- 4 LAKER (L)
- 3 RYAN (Y)
- 2 RUTH (H)
- 1 NETTO (O)

**Bobby, Sinko, Minto, Minto**  
**Gosheti 22**

Q How many matches have Delhi played in Ranji Trophy?

A 171 matches since 1934-35

**Boddu Subba Rao, Hyderabad**

Q How many Test matches have Gavaskar captained?

A 34 Tests in his total appearances in 79 Tests

Q How many Tests wickets has Gavaskar taken in Tests?

A Just one for 163 runs in 79 Test appearances

**V H Kulkarni, Kolhapur**

Q Who is the batsman, who has scored maximum runs in one over in Tests?

**A Andy Roberts of West Indies scored a maximum of 24 runs off Ian Botham's over in the first Test against England at Port of Spain in 1980-81 and later one shared by Sandip Patil of India, who too hit 24 runs off Robert Willis of England in the second Test at Manchester in 1982**

**Jadunath Paride, Dhenkanal**

Q What is the earlier highest batting record of England captain Bob Willis?

A 28 not out scored against Pakistan vs Birmingham in July, 1982

Q What is the record by an Indian, of scoring the highest number of runs in an over in a Test?

A 24 by Sandip Patil, off Bob Willis over

**In the second Test at Manchester in 1982**

**Akhtar, Baradel, Khulais**

Q How shall I get a copy of the book "Wisden Book of Test Cricket 1875-77 to 1977-78"?

A You may get the book direct from the publishers, Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, Paulton House, 8, Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7LW or from Manne Sports, Gokhale Road, Dadar, Bombay 400 028

**Mohammed Asif Demudi,**

**Bhatkal**

Q What is Brijesh Patel's highest score in Tests?

A 115 not out in the second Test against West Indies 24 Port of Spain 1975-76

## Bridge

Boris Schapiro

One of the curious things about making a sacrifice bid is that sometimes you achieve an unexpectedly good result. Please don't misunderstand me - I am not referring to the odd miracles when you end by making your contract, nor am I recommending a policy of lunatic aggression in the hope that you fall on your feet - but merely suggesting that every once in a while you do far better than you dared to hope, but in an odd way. This week's hand, from a very old match, is a good example.

♠ K J 9 8 5 4  
 ♥ J 10 5  
 ♦ none  
 ♣ A 3 2

♠ A 10 7 3  
 ♥ none  
 ♦ A K J 8 7  
 ♣ J 8 6 5

♠ none  
 ♥ A K Q 9 8 6 2  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ Q J 9 7 4

♠ Q 2  
 ♥ 7 4 3  
 ♦ Q 10 9 6 5 4 3  
 ♣ K

N  
 W E  
 S

North dealt with North-South vulnerable and the bidding unfolded as follows

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1 ♠	2 ♦
3 ♥	pass	3 ♠	pass
4 ♥	pass	6 ♥	pass
pass	7 ♦	double	pass
pass	pass		

It is not often that you have seven-card support for a suit in which your partner has overcalled at the two level and West decided to lurk in the bushes until his opponents had run out of steam. (On reflection, that is a beautifully mixed metaphor but politicians do it so why shouldn't I?) It proved effective for, when North-South bid confidently to their small slam without any assistance, he was able to judge that his side had little defence and that it was worthwhile to sacrifice in seven diamonds. Although North-South would have made 13 tricks if hearts had been trumps, they could hardly have fancied their chances of playing ♠ A 3 2 facing ♣ Q J 9 7 4 for no losers and it was obviously right for them to double and take the safe penalty. Unfortunately, the penalty was only 300 points.

A number of interesting thoughts come up from this deal. First, a premature sacrifice may enable your opponents to judge that they have no values in your suit and as a result be egged on to higher levels where they may succeed. Secondly, in spite of the fact that North-South had bid a lay-down slam with only 21 high-card points between them, they would have done better to have stopped at the game level. Just look at the arithmetic: - to have played in four-hearts with three overtricks would have collected 710 points.

Last week's quiz: At game all as South you held ♠ A 8 6 4 2 ♥ A 10 ♦ 8 6 2 ♣ A K 3. West dealt and opened one-heart, North passed and East raised to two-hearts. You doubled, West passed, North bid three-hearts, East passed and you helped partner out by bidding four-spades. Now West pushed on with five-hearts and this was followed by two passes. At this point a double seems very clear cut. It must yield a comfortable plus, but to bid on might not.

This week's quiz: South deals at love all with ♠ A 7 6 5 3 ♥ A 7 6 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 4 3. He deals and opens one-spade to which North responds two-clubs. What re-bid should South choose?

## Chess

Peter Clarke

The Greveson, Grant British Championship, staged at the South Devon Technical College, Torquay, from August 2 to 13, was one of the best contested and perhaps the very strongest tournament of the long series. Three of our grandmasters were competing and in the end succeeded in defending their status by gaining the top three places. Keene was in a tie with Kosten and Ravikumar on 7½/11, Speelman was second on 8, and the fine score of 9 gave Miles the title. Neither Speelman nor Miles lost a game, and the chess they produced was impressively skilful and aggressive. On three occasions Speelman offered his Queen for various pieces and each time went on to win in a style most entertaining for the spectators. This is how he disposed of a rival for second place. White: Jon Speelman, Black: Vis Rook Queen's Pawn King's Indian Defence (Torquay, 1982).

1 P - e4, P - e3, 2 P - e4, P - e4  
 3 e2 - e3, P - e3, 4 P - e4, e2 - e2  
 5 e2 - e3, P - e3, 6 e2 - e2, e2 - e2  
 7 P - e4, P - e4

The order of moves followed by Black is not fully satisfactory. White's space advantage in the centre proves hard to counter in the long run.

8 e2 - e3, e2 - e3, 9 e2 - e2, P - e4  
 10 P - e3, P - e3, 11 P - e4, P - e3  
 12 P - e3, e2 - e3, 13 e2 - e3, e2 - e3  
 14 e2 - e1, K - e1, 15 e2 - e3, K - e2  
 16 P - e4, e2 - e1

The Rook at e1 is misplaced and should have been brought towards the action via f1.

17 P - e3, e2 - e1, 18 P - e4, e2 - e1  
 19 e2 - e3, e2 - e1, 20 K - e1, e2 - e2  
 21 e2 - e4

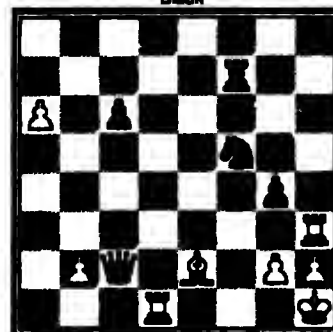
No doubt this came as an unpleasant surprise for Black. Having several pieces tied up on the K side he cannot stop the invasion on the other wing.

21 e2 - e1, 22 e2 - e4, P - e4  
 Desperation takes over. However the defender's prospects were bad after 22. R - e2 23

Q - e4 R - e2, 24 P - e4  
 23 e2 - e4, e2 - e4, 24 e2 - e4, e2 - e4  
 25 e2 - e4, K - e3, 26 e2 - e4, e2 - e4  
 27 K - e2, P - e4, 28 e2 - e4, e2 - e4  
 29 e2 - e4, e2 - e4, 30 e2 - e4, P - e4  
 31 e2 - e4, e2 - e4, 32 e2 - e4, K - e4  
 33 e2 - e4, K - e4, 34 R - e4, Resigns

Competition 6548 Solution next week

Black



White

Black to play. How did the game finish? Grade 3 (medium)

Solution to 6548 (Wilson - Nunn, Lone Pine, 1973) (4b3p3p1b1/1p1b1Pp/qn1p4/1p1P4/1b2b2/PPPP/K2Q - White to play) The advanced KNP decided the issue 25 B x RP, R x Q, 27 B x B K - Q1, 28 B - K5, Kt - Q3 29 P - K7 and Black resigned.

Problem No 1215. Solution next week

W 1 Rook (Checkmate, 1904)  
 (3b2b1/2p1b1/RR1p2P1/2b1p1/RR1P3K2/7-  
 p/2b2b - 10 white men, 11 black).  
 White to play and mate in two moves.  
 Solution to No 1214 (Salem)  
 (R/Rp3p2/1R2P1p/R2P3P/2P3K3/R7/3K3 -  
 mate in two) 1 Kt - Kt3 (zugzwang) (a) 1  
 K - B6 2 R - R3 (b) 1 K - B4  
 2 Q - Kt1 - Kt1, (c) 1 K - K5 2 Q - K4, (d) 1  
 K - K4, 2 Q - K4



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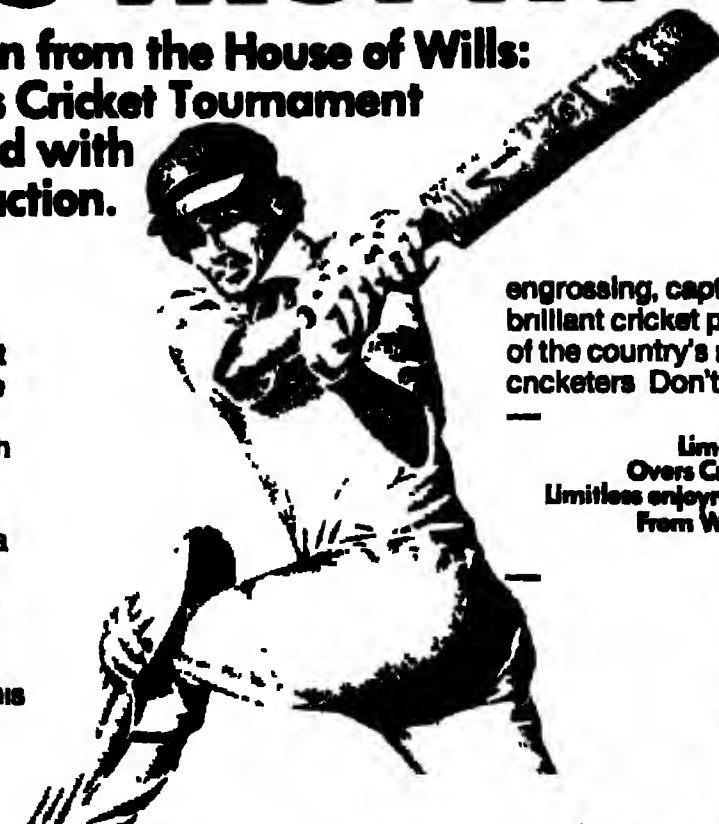
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M A K Pataudi

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STAGE	MATCH NO.	DATE	VENUE	TEAMS
Quarterfinals		Dec 28	Gauhati	Delhi vs Board President's XI
		Dec 28	Patna	Bihar vs Wills XI
		Dec 28	Calcutta	Railways vs Tamil Nadu
Semifinals		Dec 30	Calcutta	Winner of (1) vs Winner of (2)
		Dec 30	Cuttack	Bombay vs Winner of (3)
Final		Jan 1	Calcutta	Winner of (4) vs Winner of (5)



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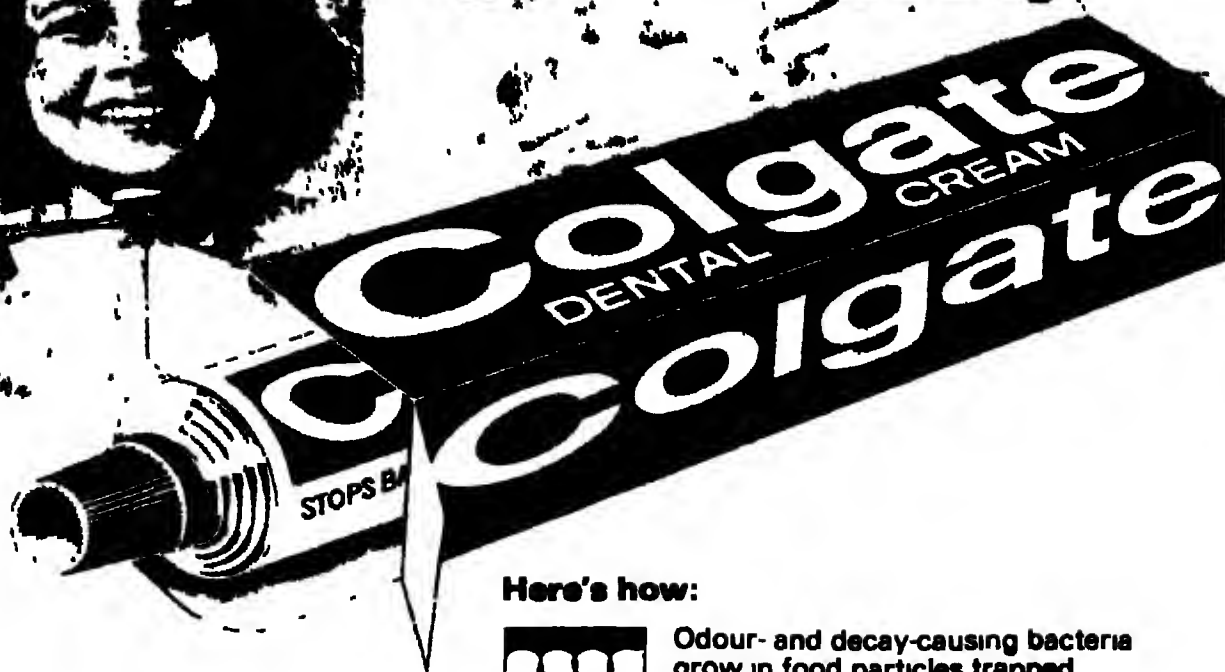
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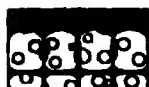


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Editor Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi

Associate Editor Arjit Sen  
Chief Sub Editor David McMahon  
Editorial Staff Subhash Sarker  
Correspondents: Bombay Harish Munwari Madras Ashok Kamath  
Staff Photographer Nikhil Bhattacharya  
Art Director Rajul Guha

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## Letters to the Editor

### Disheartening

**SADLY**, the performance of the national football squad at the Asiad did not match our expectations. When one considers the amount of preparations which went for the same it is very disheartening. Apart from that, most unfortunate is the fact that no new set of players have emerged in the last couple of years, save a few like Sudip, Alok and Kartick Sett.

The Nehru Gold Cup tournament is not far off. The AIFF should waste no time in revamping the present mode of selection. The absence of thrustful and aggressive frontliners was badly felt at the Asiad.

For a start, the AIFF bosses would do well to sideline the tired Asiad squad members from participating in the forthcoming Nationals at Calcutta. This would enable many talented youngsters, especially from Bengal like Satyajit Ghosh, Bikash Panji and Amitava Mukherjee to exhibit their skills before the selectors.

A change at the top is also inevitable. It is results which count whatever be the individual credentials of P.K. Banerjee and his assistants who were entrusted with the task of training the side for the Asiad. As replacements, one cannot think of better coaches than Peter Thangaraj and Syed Naeemuddin.

PREMCHAND,  
Bombay

### Great show

**INDIA** did very well at the IX Asiad, taking as many as 51 medals. Keeping in view the previous Asiads it certainly is a very creditable performance.

In the team events India showed every sign of progress. Our teams performed well in lawn tennis, badminton, water polo, vol-

leyball and basketball. In tennis they did well to claim the team silver. But, it was top seeded Nandan Bal who could not justify his seeding.

In badminton the Indians fought magnificently. Though India had to be content with bronze medals, one cannot deny the fact that Modi, Uday, Pradeep and Leroy did put up a good show.

KUSHAL KUMAR SEN,  
Ranchi

**THE** letter by Mr Ajay Srekanth in *Sportsworld* December 1, 1982 is in bad taste. It is sad what Malhotra could not find a place in the team to tour Pakistan. But it is absolutely ridiculous to blame Vishwanath's inclusion for this. Moreover, the criticism levelled is neither healthy nor constructive. Isn't it then merely carrying matters a bit too far?

LALITHA SUBRAMANIAM,  
Madras

### Prestige

**AFTER** completing the Asiad construction in a record time, India has enriched her prestige and reputation. The country has acquired some brightness in her darkness of backwardness. For this, the credit undoubtedly goes to the Indian engineers who made this possible. In only 30 months the construction of five stadia, seven flyovers and an enormous Asiad Village were completed.

KUSHAL SEN,  
Ranchi

### Concept should change

**AFTER** about 30 years since the hosting of the first Asiad in our country the lot of our sportsmen is just the same. A nourishing diet, a dignified residential place and other bare necessities are still considered privileges in our country.

RAJENDER PRASAD  
New Delhi

"I think I should be charging for granting interviews and for posing for photographs"—Prakash Padukone after being barred from participating in the Asian Games for being a licensed player.

"The success of sepak raga is a typical rags to riches story, a game which has risen from the dusty surroundings of Kampung to a national sport internationally known as Sepak Takraw"—Ravi Chaturvedi.

"Ashok Malhotra has been sacrificed at the altar of convenience. This solitary black deed apart, the selectors have done as good a job as was possible in the circumstances"—R. Mohan

"When the Australians return home, Marsh may bow out of his national cricket team. His relinquishing of the vice-captaincy for the Pakistan tour in favour of Allan Border showed that he himself believes his days are over"—*The Pakistan Cricketer*

"The Australians won't be spending as much time in the loo when they get home from Pakistan"—Bob Willis

"Listen, Bird, you're not playing for West Indies now. We've got to bowl 103 overs a day"—South Australia captain David Hookes to Joel Garner, as reported by columnist Geoff Roach

"Hey, man, come on—that's back to the days of slavery"—Joel Garner's reply

"Chavara has twice turned down the opportunity to captain Australia on tours overseas for business reasons. That is his right. But having done so, he has surely forfeited all claim to that honour in the future. No one should be allowed to turn down the opportunity to captain Australia more than once, except on the most compelling compassionate grounds"—*Leader in The Australian*

"Sri Lankans have only a hazy notion of the difference between Zimbabwe, which their official team is to tour, and South Africa. One fan said: 'We sell our women to the Arabs so what is wrong with the cricket team making money abroad for us?' One reporter said the average Sri Lankan earns less than £1,000 a year"—*Johannesburg agency report*

"He (Allan Lamb) reminded me strongly of another South African, the great Dudley Nourse, whose car-driving was particularly good"—*Bill O'Reilly*

"The not-inconsiderable worry now facing British cricket lovers is that by staying away during the rapid dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, we are leaving behind those dedicated men who will not fall foul of employers as they march to the front of the anti-apartheid struggle"

# SPORT QUOTE

David Frith (*Wisden Cricket Monthly*)

"The seemingly worthless practice of polishing is now reaching ridiculous proportions."—A cricket fan in the *Wisden Cricket Monthly*

"Most important of all is that our much-vaunted team spirit is in excellent shape again—as seems to be the case every tour now. All the first time tourists have merged in very quickly and whatever happens in the next four months I doubt that anyone or anything will damage our spirits"—David Gower

"It only needed a ringleader to jump over the pickets and a lot more would have followed. There were times when physical rather than verbal abuse got pretty close"—Leslie Ames, former wicket-keeper of England reminisces the bodyline series.

"To be a member of an English team in

"...is a great honour and a great privilege. There is a lot of competition—in fact, contention—about a tour in that country which is the blood"—John

"Australian cricket has benefited from my meeting England last year and Pakistan this time. Dirk Wellham would never have had the chance so early to enter the record books. Nor would Greg Ritchie have made the Test line-up and responded with a century if I had been in Pakistan"—Greg Chappell

"The trouble with your spinners is that they do not spin the ball. Ray Bright is accurate, but that is all. On these good pitches you have to do more than that"—Intikhab Alam on Australia's slow bowlers

"It is the old, old story—when Greg Chappell and Dennis Lillee are out of action the Australian team soon goes out of commission"—Australian cricket writer Phil Wilkins

"The battle for the captaincy of Australia this summer became an ugly public war. The three candidates, Kim Hughes, Greg Chappell and Rod Marsh all stated they felt they were the best men for the job"—Peter Macfarlane

"Cricket in England may seem to be a deep, dark, and mysterious world, but it is not. It is a sport that is as simple as the game of football and as much loved"

# My most memorable moments

## C. DESHA MUTTU

**T**HE man needs to be admired. Hockey goalkeeping is a task where reflexes play a very important role and one has got to be in the peak of physical condition to hold one's place at the highest level of the game. There is a man in this country who has managed to play the game he has loved so very much for all of twenty five years. From 1946 to 1969 he was a pillar of safety between the posts whether it was for his office cum club team, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) or his State side, Mysore or for that matter even playing for the country at the Olympics.

Muttu took up coaching in 1973 when he coached the HAL team and since 1977 has been the coach for goalkeepers in the National squad. His graduation in the game that has given him an Olympic gold did not stop there. A couple of years ago besides his duties of coach he was also made a selector for the team that was to make the trip to the Moscow Olympics. From this it is evident that the ex goalkeeping ace is giving back to hockey all he has gained from it. Repaying a debt, he is.

**I** first came on to the big-time hockey scene in 1946 when I was selected to play for Mysore, the State I have always been, still am, and will always continue to be attached to. For 11 long years I played for Mysore and the record of the State, though not very good during this period, was one which I will always cherish. Running parallel with my relationship with Mysore was the fruitful one I had and still have with HAL. Nowadays, players change teams at the drop of a hat but in our time it was quite different, one really got attached to the team one was playing for.

I joined HAL in 1948 and we won all the major hockey tournaments of the country at one time or the other. The only big tournament that eluded us was the Aga Khan. But then I suppose that is all part of sport. Look at Borg as an example. He has won so many tennis tournaments and has become King of Wimbledon, but the U.S. Open has still not been won by him.

One of the best years in my career was 1948, HAL, with me in

goal, won as many as 5 tournaments. We bagged the Maharaja Gold Cup in Bangalore where we also bagged the P.U.S. Cup, the Beckore Cup and the Travencore Cup. The same year in Madras we won the M.U.C. Cup. HAL made it to the finals of the Aga Khan in Bombay, but we finished runners-up.

Two years later I made a splash on the National scene when I was selected for the highly successful East African tour. In the same year the Beighton Cup held in Calcutta was a particularly good tournament. In the final we took on the might of Pakistan Bata.



The latter had as many as 9 Olympians in their ranks and were the favourites to win the trophy. However, in a thrilling final, we managed to down them by the odd goal in three. For me, personally, it was a great victory.

At this juncture I would like to dwell a little on the period just prior to the East African tour. Mysore, the team I was playing for, was drawn to play the powerful Bombay in the quarter-final of the National championship. A strong side, would perhaps be an understatement when one was talking of the Bombay team. There were as many as nine Olympians in their ranks. There was Leo Pinto, Gentle, Walter D'Souza, Lauri Pinto, Reggie Rodrigues—the list is long.

We played them on four consecutive days to break the deadlock but to no avail. On the fifth day our centre half could not be

on the field as he had broken his ankle. One Bombay raid followed another and, as much as it might sound like blowing one's own trumpet, I stood between the Bombay team and victory. We got a goal against the run of play and this match was the most memorable moment of my life. I was awarded a special prize for my performance in the match.

It was after this match that I began representing the country and made the tour to East Africa. In the same year I played a few Test matches for the country at Calcutta. At the Bombay Test match I was given the honour to be vice-captain of the side and followed this up by representing Mysore at another Test match in Bangalore.

1952 is one year which I will always nostalgically look back upon. I was in the gold medal winning team at the Helsinki Olympic Games and also the extensive tour of the Continent.

In my memory holds me right that was the year HAL, for whom I was playing finished runners up in the Dhyan Chand Memorial Tournament at Delhi. Till this day I still remember shaking the hand of the Chief Guest who was none other than our late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

I was at the peak of my career during this period. HAL monopolised the Wellington Tournament winning it continuously from 1952 to 1957. Another one of the many hockey victories of mine came in 1954, this time playing for my state.

The call of duty saw to it that I represented Andhra Pradesh in the 1963 hockey Nationals. I was the captain of the Andhra side. There was another similar transfer in 1969, a particularly memorable one. My job took me to Agia and I began playing for a State which has always made full and best use of my services—Uttar Pradesh.

But the best moment in my long career was the match against Punjab Police at the 1952 Nationals at Delhi. We won by a lone goal and there were many more than just me who thought that C. Desha Muttu stood between his team's victory and defeat.

as told to DEREK O'BRIEN

# ALL IN THE GAME

## COMPUTER CRICKET

### *What next?*

**E**NGLAND versus Victoria November 3, 1982 On this day cricket entered the computer age. The players of both teams had the privilege of watching action replays on the new electronic scoreboard installed at the Melbourne ground.

The scoreboard remains a scoreboard till a button is pressed and then jack knife it transforms into a massive television screen.

The cost of the giant sized extravaganza which was installed eight months ago was £2.5 million.

A slight problem soon arose. The giant TV's action replays it was felt—and quite understandably—would only help to antagonise the crowd because the latter would then be in a position to scrutinise the umpire's decision. However, a compromise has been reached and even though there will be a replay at the fall of each wicket it will not be in slow motion.

There was another school of thought who were of the opinion that all decisions should be shown, except for those which involved run outs and stumping.

There is a suspicion: Is the mammoth scoreboard good enough? The answers should very soon be on the way.

## SKIING TIME

### *Not knowing tent*

**H**ART WEIRATHER Hot Austria is the world's best downhill skier. But even champion Hart had to start from scratch, as he confides, "I went straight up a little hill, jumped the machine, flew about 40 metres and landed in a tree." From this point onwards many

people referred to him as the boy who hangs from the tree.

The Alpine skier himself admits that he cannot hit a tennis ball or play a game of football. "I'm not a natural sportsman."

Weirather believes that car racing is one of the best ways of training for skiing. And to prove his point he does not have to go further—he has driven in the 24 lap Le Mans race and is a great admirer of anything from Formula Threes to motor cross.

Fear is a word which no downhill racer should have in his vocabulary. The daredevil exploits of downhill skiing are made to sound so very easy by the world champion who once went on record saying, "It's like gliding, no, like floating in the air. I'm in another world, above the clouds." Well, here in India one has never really tried it. Will we never know?

## BIG DEAL

### *League sponsorship*

**T**HERE is just about every aspect of big time sport which is sponsored and the English Football League is also on the lookout for a godfather. But it is not necessary that the highest bidder will get the honour, for it is reported that the F.A. are looking for a sponsor who is willing to cough up £3.5 million over a period of three years.

More than the money involved, the League's marketing manager disclosed, there is the question of compatibility. It is for this reason, one feels, that the League will be sponsored by a British firm, instead of the Americans coming into the fray.

As a way of policy alcohol and tobacco companies will not be included in a possible tie up. Among others, the Atari Video

company are one of the favourites to clinch the deal. There are about twenty other companies vying to bag the sponsorship and a settlement is expected in the near future.

## WRONG TRACK

### *Coe's father quits job*

**W**HO does not know Peter Coe? Well, the father and coach of Britain's ace athlete Sebastian Coe claims that he has been "carpeted, humiliated and abused" by his



company (George Butler, Sheffield, Ltd.) chairman.

A spokesman for the company told the British Press that Peter Coe had sidetracked an important business meeting and instead went and watched

his son compete in the European Games at Athens.

Mr Coe, who is great lover of sport, denied that he had ever allowed athletics to interfere with his job, saying he was "a one hundred per cent company man."

The abuse and ill treatment meted out to the father of 'Seb' Coe was so bad that Mr Peter Coe gave his oral resignation immediately and soon afterwards handed over the keys of his company car. The job thrown up, Papa Coe left for Sheffield.

## MASTER LESTER

### *Still going strong*

**A**ND so we come to the end of the legend's 34th racing season. What a season it has been. One hundred and eighty-seven times past the winning post and as a bonus even a few smiles thrown in. He has quite rightly been dubbed 'Britain's longest serving star'—Lester Piggott.

The riding maestro still enjoys every minute of it and is proud to admit that he still gets a kick out of every ride every winner.

Piggott broke a long standing relationship with Vincent O'Brien and now instead, rides for Henry Cecil. The cigar smoking king of the pigskin does not hide the fact that he has been a little lucky this year, but then goes on to explain it's "Easier as you grow older. It's experience. It all gets slower. You think quicker, see the problems earlier, so you have more."

One is quite sure that Piggott will hang up his whip in a couple of years or so and the racing world will then lose a true champion. However the race is still not over and he'll still be at the starting stalls and, needless to say, prominent at the finish.

# McEnroe's Davis Cup

GEORGE K. GEORGE

**T**HE red clay surfaces of France have been the Waterloo for many a tennis star over the past eight decades. Forty years ago, the U S Davis Cup team lost the challenge round to France on the slow clay. John McEnroe was in the same danger as he flew to the foothills of the Alps in the last week of November to defend 'his' Davis Cup.

There is no exaggeration there. It has become 'his' Davis Cup a prize he cherished with a special feeling. One may call it patriotism. To John McEnroe the word 'team' means a lot. That is where he parts company with his arch rivals Borg, Connors and Lendl.

As usual John McEnroe puts a lot on line as he walked on to the unusual clay surface at Palais des Sports in Grenoble, France. For the first time an indoor clay court had been constructed in a few weeks for the 1982 Cup finals. Indoor clay surfaces are very rare even in Europe. Here was one which had too much moisture and very little speed. Clay is McEnroe's least favourite surface. Though he reached the quarter finals of the 1982 French Open, he is yet to win a Grand Prix event on clay. He had a lot to lose by playing on such a surface.

Then there was the crowd factor.

More than 15,000 screaming Frenchmen were there to root for their team. To make matters worse, the team was being led by an all-time favourite of French tennis Yannick Noah. There is an incredible chemistry between Yannick and the crowd wherever he plays. Even in New York, the majority of the spectators chant his name as he takes on American players. The French crowd and Yannick had worked as a perfect team to beat Czechoslovakia and New Zealand.

Noah also had an impressive season. He was determined to get into the top 10 and did it by now. He led his team to a glorious win over Argentina in the pre-quarters finals of this year's Davis Cup tournament. In the next round he scored probably the most important win over the year when he beat Ivan Lendl in the fourth match of the tie. He cut down Lendl's 2-1 lead and won rather comfortably. Then he went on to win the decisive fifth match of the play-off against New Zealand.

At Grenoble Yannick Noah looked different. For the first time, he appeared in a major tournament with braided hair. Certainly Derek's goodluck charm did not work for Arthur Ashe's protege. The draw and John McEnroe nullified his home

court and home crowd advantages.

McEnroe vs Noah in the opening singles was the best draw the Americans could hope for. If McEnroe prevailed, the tie would go in favour of the Americans. The pressure of the opening singles would be certainly on Noah. Indeed it was. The first set lasted an hour and 32 minutes. It looked as if another marathon like the one between McEnroe and Wilander was in the making. Noah had six break points and McEnroe had just two. The American took it at 12-10. In the process he even served a few aces, something hard to produce on clay.

As McEnroe looked well set for the second, the unexpected happened. Noah took it at 6-1 and followed up by grabbing the third at 6-3. McEnroe would later admit that he completely lost concentration. Ashe put it more graphically: "He went to sleep for two sets. That's all to it."

Then as usual John McEnroe woke up. He took the next two sets at 6-2, 6-3 to give the US team the lead. It wanted French captain Jean-Paul Loti summarized it best: "The difference is, of course, that he plays extremely well at the important moments."

In fact the major element of his victory in the last two sets was his willingness to stay at the baseline and patiently play Noah. This is the one quality that John McEnroe has been developing all time. In some matches, he may perform a 'throw away' out of boredom or lack of competition. But in crucial moments he comes through. This happened at the 1981 Wimbledon and US Open and at a few other matches in the last two years.

After Gene Mayer defeated young Henri Leconte in the second singles, John McEnroe went to work again. Teaming up with Peter Fleming, he took the doubles in straight sets from Noah and Leconte. It was the ninth Davis Cup victory of the American pair. They have never lost a doubles in the tournament. It was McEnroe's ninth win in ten.

For the fourth time in his short career John McEnroe led the US to a Davis Cup victory. In the reverse singles he beat Leconte to accumulate a tally of 26 wins in the Davis Cup. Only another American, his captain Arthur Ashe, holds a lead over him with 27 wins. McEnroe has lost only three Davis Cup matches to date. Two of them were against Guillermo Vilas and Jose Luis Clerc of Argentina in 1980 when the US lost at Buenos Aires.

McEnroe cherishes this year's Davis Cup win as one of the greatest achievements of his career. He thinks that this and the win over Argentina last year were the best Davis Cup ties he has ever played. Winning in France on his worst surface has probably broken his jinx on clay courts.





# Martina Navratilova: Permanent resident at No. 1?

RAHUL JACOB

**W**HEN Martina Navratilova won Wimbledon 1982, completing three-fourths of tennis's coveted Grand Slam, she was enjoying one of the most dominant runs in the history of women's tennis: she had lost just one match till then, to Sylvia Hanika in the Avon Championship final, she had won two premier clay court events (the French Open and the Family Circle Cup) thereby dispelling any doubts about her being strictly a "fast surface player", physically and mentally, she seemed streets ahead of her rivals.

By mid July, Martina seemed well nigh invincible. By mid-September, she had crossed the million-dollar mark in earnings—a feat only Ivan Lendl had achieved this year. And at the time of writing, in a total of over 80 matches, she had suffered only two defeats—the second to Pam Shriver, in the U.S. Open.

It hadn't always been that way. In fact, Martina's career has resembled a roller-coaster ride with plenty of ups and downs. Back in 1975, Martina's clashes with Czech officials finally culminated in her defection during the U.S. Open.

The ordeal proved too much for the talented 18-year-old. She missed her parents terribly. To compound matters, she found it difficult to deal with her new-found freedom. Martina felt like a citizen of paradise. She devoured junk food ("I went on a 'see-food' diet", she says, "everything I saw, I ate"), and went in for Gucci wardrobes with a vengeance. She once appeared on court wearing what Chris Lloyd remembers as "eight bracelets, six necklaces and four diamond rings".

Her weight ballooned and her temper became uncontrollable. Consequently, where at the end of 1975, she had been elected *Tennis* magazine's "Most Improved Player", in 1976 and 1977 she just drifted, making little impact. At the U.S. Open in 1977, Martina hit rock-bottom: she was soundly beaten by the unknown Janet Newberry in her very first match. Martina broke down, weeping openly on court.

Yet that debacle proved a blessing

in disguise. She whittled her weight down to a trim, muscular 147 pounds and enlisted Sandra Haynie (a former pro golfer) as her manager. Haynie proved a steadying influence.

Taking advantage of Evert's absence, Martina chalked up a winning streak of some 30 matches on the women's spring tour. The defeat that brought that streak to an end was perhaps one of the most exciting matches in the history of women's tennis.

Having split the first two sets with Tracy Austin, the two players found themselves at six-games all and four-all in the tie-breaker—simultaneous matchpoint for both players! (The Virginia Slims tour enforced a tie-breaker in which the first player to reach five won.) The 14-year-old Austin won that match to initiate an interesting rivalry with Navratilova.

In June 1978, Martina served Chris Evert notice when she beat her in the finals at Eastbourne, an important Wimbledon warm-up. In the semi-finals at Wimbledon she came from behind to defeat an injured Evonne Cawley, and in the finals, she pulled back from a 2-4 deficit in the deciding set to defeat Evert and to take her first Wimbledon title. Her confidence and calmness on the crisis points surprised observers. This was a new, mature Martina: gone were the tantrums and the tears.

The following year at Wimbledon, 1979, Martina struggled when she should have breezed through and breezed through when she should have struggled. She blasted Austin and Evert-Lloyd off the court in straight sets. As Lloyd put it, "Martina just never let me into the match, when she serves like that there's nothing much I can do."

Robert Lansdorp, Austin's coach, observed, "you've got to give Martina credit. She plays with so much patience now. It's kind of irritating, as if she's saying, 'I'll hit three or four more shots and wait for my chance to come in because no one can hurt me'."

For Martina the presence of her

mother, Jana, made the victory sweeter. She raised the Champion's Plate in the direction of her mother and said "This is for you" (In contrast, Chris was disconsolate. The most gracious of losers, Chris had always been able to smile in defeat but on this occasion she didn't say anything).

In January, 1980, Navratilova slaughtered an in-form Tracy Austin in the Colgate Series finals with a display of controlled aggression which had spectators gasping. Navratilova buried Austin 6-2, 6-1 in only 48 minutes. As Susan Adams, Editor of *World Tennis*, wrote, "Never has a woman played the serve and volley game with this combination of power, courage, precision and touch." However, for the rest of the year Martina was woefully out of touch. She was dethroned at Wimbledon by Chris Evert Lloyd 6-4, 4-6, 2-6. At the U.S. Open, she was surprisingly beaten in straight sets by her young compatriot, Hana Mandlikova, who once used to fetch balls for Martina at the Sparta Club back home in Prague.

1981 was a disappointing year for Martina, both on and off court. Off court, her family moved to the US but felt totally out of place and decided to go back to Czechoslovakia. Martina was bitterly disappointed.

Later in the year, Martina was guilelessly forthright about her affair with the brilliant lesbian writer, Rita Mae Brown. Instead of the understanding she expected, she got tabloid headlines and a growing fear that her American citizenship would be help up on moral grounds.

Those fears were unfounded as Navratilova received her citizenship of the United States in September ("one of the happiest events of my life"). On court, she was beaten by the German Sylvia Hanika in the quarters of the French Open, while at Wimbledon, Hana Mandlikova defeated her in the semi-finals in a match marred by its heavy political overtones. She also suffered some surprising losses to Andrea Jaeger and Claudia Kohde.

Last year, at Amelia Island, Florida, Martina dreamt that she was playing Chris Lloyd and that her own side of the court was a valley. Wherever she ran for a shot, she was chugging uphill. In the final at Amelia Island, Martina had to live out that nightmare! She was destroyed by Lloyd 0-6, 0-6. Time to wake up, Martina realised. "My time at the top was running out. It was time to make a go for it."

She had played dismally all summer, but by the U.S. Open, a turnaround was apparent. She dethroned Lloyd in the semis but then stumbled against Austin and lost 6-1, 6-7, 6-7. Martina was overcome by emotion when the crowd nevertheless rose to give their new countrywomen the



warmest ovation she had ever received. At the end of the year Navratilova won the Australian Open with a tough three-set victory over Lloyd.

Primarily responsible for this change of fortune and welcome returns to form were Navratilova's coach, transsexual Renee Richards, and her physical fitness expert and companion, basketballer Nancy Lieberman. Lieberman says, "I was really surprised how Martina lacked confidence in her game and herself."

Martina was forced into a rigid training regimen. Already the strongest woman ever to play the game, her foot-work and stamina improved tremendously. Martina admitted, "I need someone to kick me. Nancy gave me the shove I needed. She made me realize how much better I could be and should be."

The rewards were almost instantaneous. This year Martina went on a seemingly invincible rampage on the women's circuit. She won the Family Circle Cup and the French Open. In both finals, her victim was Andrea Jaeger, who, on both occasions, had blasted Chris Lloyd in the previous round. Martina explained her new attitude towards tennis thus, "I'm not just involved in tennis but committed. Do you know the difference between involvement and commitment? Think of ham and eggs. The chicken is involved, the pig is committed." That quote is part of history now.

At Wimbledon, Martina did not concede a set until the finals. In the first set, she demolished Lloyd 6-1. Lloyd rallied well to take the second but then found Navratilova too good for her on the "big points" and crumbled to give Martina Navratilova her third Wimbledon title. In July, she led the United States to a comfortable Federation Cup victory, becoming the only woman to have led two countries to victory in this coveted women's championship. (She was Czechoslovakia's top player when they won in 1975).

The U.S. Open proved once again an unhappy hunting ground for Martina who seems to suffer from a Flushing Meadow jinx similar to Bjorn Borg's. Though Martina was stricken, by toxoplasmosis, she fought gallantly before bowing out to her doubles partner, Pam Shriver, in the quarters. The defeat was all the more bitter as Martina had completed three-fourths of the Grand Slam, if she had won the U.S. Open she would have been only the third woman to complete the Grand Slam.

Undaunted, Navratilova carried on her ruthless rampage on the women's tour. The scene of the slaughter moved to Europe where she brushed aside Tracy Austin in the finals of the Peugeot Open. In Brighton, she thrashed Austin 6-2, 6-1 in the semis and clobbered Chris Lloyd 6-1, 6-4 in the finals.



Navratilova has the potential to be the greatest player of all time. Not in recent memory has anyone dominated tennis the way she did this year. Her new found maturity coupled with her enviable bounty of talent make a devastating combination. It seemed that whenever Martina needed a big point this year, she squared her shoulders, walked calmly into position, reached down into that awesome reservoir of law to

lent, and attacked.

Martina is one of the most complete athletes ever to play women's tennis. She has the legs to run down anything, the strength to muscle the ball back even when it crowds her on the baseline, and the mental tenacity to be satisfied with nothing less than victory. "If I'm on, nobody can beat me," Navratilova says flatly. "If I'm off, I beat myself."

# The Eden Gardens 'War'

DEREK O'BRIEN investigates

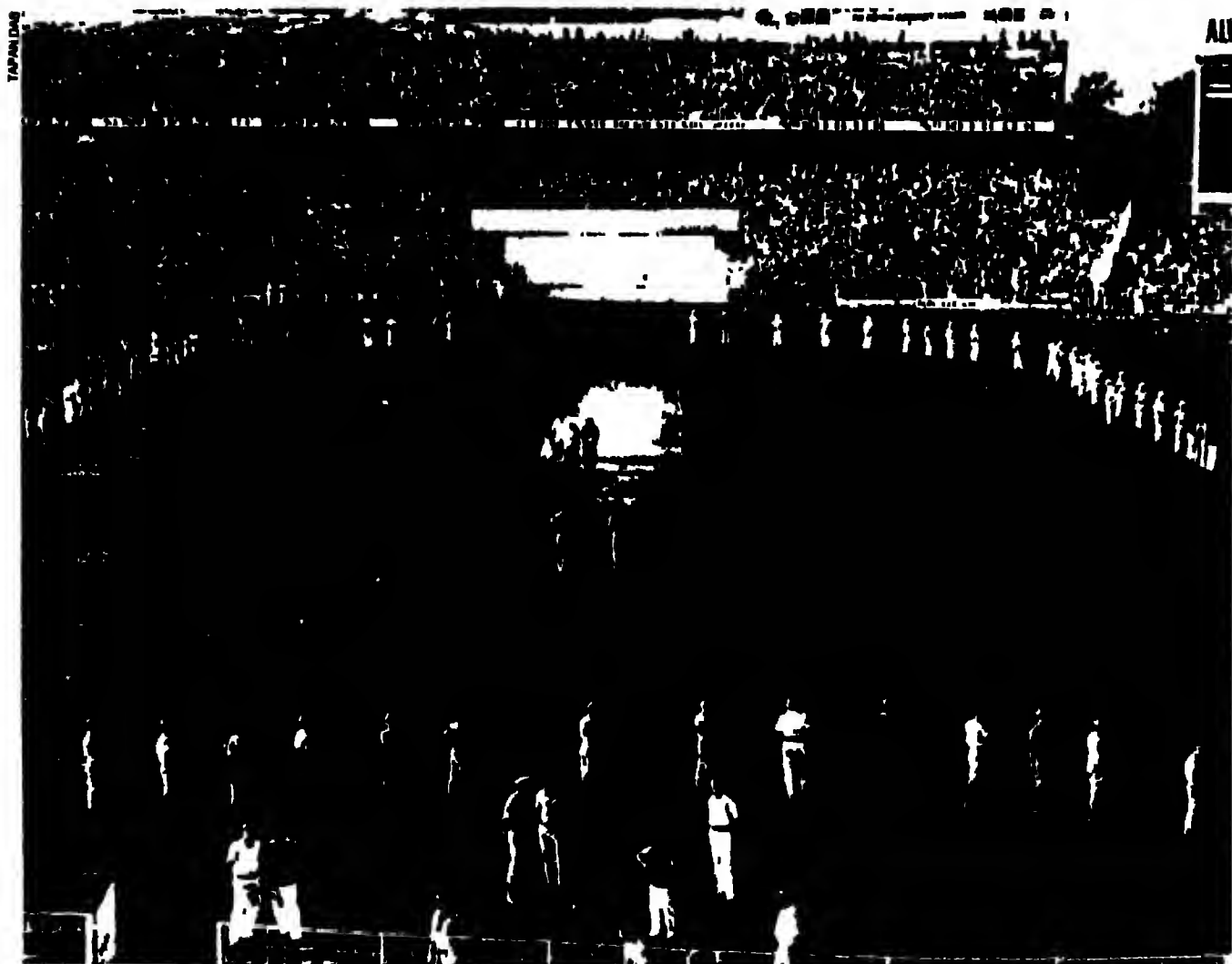
**C**alcutta has thousands of people like him. Partha Chowdhury is a junior sales representative in a publishing concern. His salary moves around the four figure mark. Its 8-20 a.m. and our man has just boarded a ramshackle mini-bus to take him to his office in central Calcutta. He puffs on his unfiltered cigarette as he browses through the morning paper. True lover of sport that he is, a cursory glance at the headlines—

Rama Rao's poll prospects, Reagan's MX missiles, these things do not hold him. The sports page is what he's looking for.

The twenty-eight-year-old sales representative pats the form he collected two months ago. He had to fill it up and at that stage was all set to cough up a full seven thousand rupees, but had begun to hesitate. Another puff. Stray thoughts come through. "The offer sounds temp-

ting, should I pay the first instalment? But what about my marriage next year?" Come Park Street and then it's a hard day's work for Partha. He'll give it a thought later.

**O**ne of the showpieces of the city of Job Charnock is the Eden Gardens. Nothing in the world can match the roar of 75,000 wicket-thirsty or run-hungry spectators. Calcutta's Paradise of sport has been the scene of many cricket battles. In



WHAT BATTLE THIS? The Gardens pitch being protected by a contingent of policemen at the end of a day's play

the last couple of months the "flannelled fools" were not the ones digging trenches. Instead the stadium has become the 'site' of another kind of pitched battle. On one side we have a wealthy cricket association and on the other a government and a registered society, the last two which are, for all practical purposes, one and the same.

Over the years many of the city's sports lovers have felt the need for a new stadium. After all the Eden Gardens is used mainly for cricket and only the odd football match is played there. There was little doubt that the need of a composite stadium, one where athletics, swimming, gymnastics, football and a few other disciplines could be played was great.

The plan that was chalked out conjured up visions of a sports dreamland. There would be provision for everything there. The government nurtured the idea and there were not too many problems choosing a site. Salt Lake, a rapidly developing township in the north eastern part of the city, was chosen and it is here that the stadium begun to take shape. As in all such ambitious projects, finance, is a prime concern.

In 1980-81 the proposed expenditure was estimated at Rs 26 crores. Where was the money to come from? There were many in the government or those who were closely connected with it who loved sport and still are, generally interested in constructing the stadium. The centre was approached for assistance but were not of much help, no money was given to the State government in the form of a Central grant. After much deliberation the Central Government eventually agreed to pay an 'advance' which was to be taken from the current plan's budget of sports. Rs 10 crores was what the centre was willing to 'advance' and the amount was to be paid in five instalments. Two crore rupees would be paid every year and thus the full amount would only be realised some time in 1985-86.

One does not wish to comment on the pros and cons of the Centre's move, the result of which however, forced the State Government to look elsewhere for the money. The ruling Left Front government was not in a position to dole out such a large sum of money. Could the money be raised by the imposition of a special stadium tax? As easy as it sounds, this could hardly be put into practice when other more serious financial problems face the state and imposing a tax for the construction of a stadium would be foolhardy.

At this stage the government of West Bengal through an executive order formed the Society for Sports and Stadium (SSS). The Society is an autonomous agency and its members are nominated by the government.

## Cricket's ungentlemanly game

"Do you just chadding in your locality?" In nine cases out of ten this is the first question that Chakraborty asks another to break the ice whether it is at a cocktail party or one's first date. "How's the weather?" would, probably, figure at number 5. Another interrogation which must rank very high up in this, the State of the Bhadrak is, "Which team do you support for?" Friends, you are only allowed one of three answers—Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Mohammedan Sporting.

This only goes to show the loyalties each resident of West Bengal has for either one of the 'Big Three'. There have been many hours of local-adds discussions on the subject and there are stories that many a matrimonial bond has been severed thanks to the fanaticism which people have for their clubs.

In mid-December as a result of 'club loyalty' there was an untoward incident which, in the end result, showed that the club concerned and its supporters were wholly to blame.

Bengal have always dominated the East Zone of the Ranji Trophy, with their team—though not brilliant—being a rich blend of youth and experience. The four selectors of Bengal, Chuni Goswami, Premangshu Chatterjee, Prakash Poddar with Dattu Phadkar as chairman have made it a policy in the recent past to include green players in the reserves to enable the youngsters to gather experience. This policy is a good one, provided of course, it is not overdone.

Franob Roy and Palash Nandi are the regular openers in the Bengal side. There is little hope for any player to replace them in the First XI. Nevertheless, A Mohammedan Sporting player Gautam Bhar was chosen for the opening Ranji Trophy tie. As expected, he did not get a game and was dropped for the match against Assam. The CAB secretary Jagmohan Dalmia when contacted, stated that, "Our First XI Ranji team is more or less a set side. However, what our selectors intend doing is to take the youngsters into the team as reserves so that they can get sufficient experience."

That is sufficient

motivation in Dalmia's statement one cannot help but dispute the fact that there is not much use of taking on a youngster for a match or two; keeping him on the sidelines and then dropping him. If one wants to give a youngster a chance in the reserves, the policy that should be followed is one which sees to it that the player concerned is persisted with for some time.

After Bhar was dropped, in the words of Dalmia, "Other juniors are being and will be given chances by rotation." Till this juncture, perfectly alright. After all each Selection Committee does have its own ways, and always does what it thinks best.

However, the problems started after Gautam Bhar who plays for Mohammedan Sporting was dropped. In typical Calcutta football fashion there was a seige outside the Cricket Association of Bengal office which is situated in the hallowed portals of the Eden Gardens.

It is alleged that the demonstrators were supporters of Mohammedan Sporting. The CAB secretary did not mince his words while recalling the incident, "There was no manhandling but the selectors were filthily abused. They tried to prevent me from entering—it is really disgraceful."

According to Dalmia, Munawar Ali, the cricket representative of Mohammedan Sporting had called on him and the CAB Vice President B. Dutta a day before the incident and informed them that some Md. Sc. members would be staging a demonstration.

If this is the case then one can safely say that the Mohammedan Sporting officials knew of the incident and might have even spearheaded it. The club involved should have taken strong action against its 'members', and the methods suggested include the forfeiture of one or two matches.

It is only then the supporters of the club realise that they have done wrong and will not give us a repeat performance.

The black and white flag of Mohammedan Sporting flutters in the wind of a rich tradition and one does not see any reason why a few unruly elements should tarnish this image.

D O B

days are here again...

The first-ever test match between India and Pakistan began on 16th October, 1952 at New Delhi. India won by an innings and 70 runs, and **Vinoo Mankad's** match figures of **13 for 131** are still an Indo-Pak record. Scores India 372, Pakistan 150 and 152.

In the second test of the 1952-53 series, Pakistan turned the tables to win by an equally big margin - an innings and 43 runs. Fazal Mahmood took 12 for 94 in the match - still **the best figures for Pakistan against India**. Scores India 106 and 182, Pakistan 331.

The third test in 1952-53 also produced a result - India won by 10 wickets. But after these three results in a row, the next **thirteen** Indo-Pak tests were all drawn - the **record for a sequence of draws** between two countries.

Before the start of the 1978-79 series, Manager Fatehsingh Rao Gaekwad promised to gift his gold watch to **Sunil Gavaskar** if Gavaskar scored two centuries in the series. Just after lunch of the last day of the last test, Gavaskar completed his second century of the match and the series. He waved his bat at the pavilion and Gaekwad, in the pavilion, waved back the watch.

All facts and figures mentioned here are valid up to the start of the current series. If any new records are created, write them down in the spaces provided.

### Sunil Gavaskar's Test History

	All tests	V/s Pak up to 1979-80	1982-83 Series
Matches	79	9	
Innings	139	17	
Not Out	10	2	
Runs	6951	976	
Average	53.88	65.06	
Highest	221	166	
100s	25	3	
50s	30	4	
Catches	71	7	
Wickets	1	1	

Trikey PE 22 PL

**Thums Up**

The refreshing Cola

The Chief Minister Mr Jyoti Basu is the president of the SSS and Mr Kamal Basu who has his own solicitors' firm, was nominated secretary. When contacted, the latter admitted that the government and the Society are one, and went on to say that, "since we were nominated, we could be removed at any point of time either by the ruling Left Front or for that matter a new government."

Mr Kamal Basu has stated the obvious and in fact, the government issued a Press notification dated November 24, 1982. To drive their point home an extract from the notification has now been included in the advertisement—"The Society for Sports and Stadium is a registered body sponsored by the Government of West Bengal with the Chief Minister as its President. The Society's request to the State Government for allotment of certain seats to their members at Eden Gardens to witness Test Matches has been agreed by the State Government."

Mr Subhash Chakraborty, State minister in-charge of Sport along with a few others hit upon a plan which they believed would be the best method of raising money to meet the cost of constructing the Salt Lake Stadium. The system they evolved has been dubbed the 'Golden Card' system. Under the system the society has offered three distinct categories of membership: (a) Life membership in the Salt Lake Stadium (still under construction) for Rs 7,000; (b) Life membership at the Salt Lake Stadium and a seat at the Eden Gardens for all cricket matches including Test matches for Rs 10,000; and (c) Institutional membership at the Salt Lake Stadium and also a seat at the Eden Gardens including all Test matches for Rs 25,000.

Those interested in obtaining membership could and still can, collect forms from either the Punjab Bank or the Canara Bank. The secretary of the SSS elaborated, "We approached the United Bank of India but they did not show any interest and as such we had to settle for the other two banks. Originally, the Society was placed in a special category and we only had to pay about 14 per cent interest. However, the Reserve Bank of India has been pressurising our banks to place us in category 4, as a result of which we will have to pay as much as 19 per cent interest. However, if Mrs Gandhi does not fare very well in the elections down south we might end up paying about 15 or 16 per cent."

What do you after you collect a membership form? It must be filled in and returned with accompanying deposits as follows, for category (a) Rs 2,000 (balance to be paid, Rs 5,000), for category (b) Rs 2,000 (balance to be paid Rs 8,000) and for category (c) Rs 5,000 (balance to be paid Rs 20,000). This completes the



Chief Minister Jyoti Basu—towards an amicable settlement

first stage.

Subsequently, on allotment of membership one has to pay a further Rs 2,000, Rs 5,000, and Rs 10,000 for a, b, c categories respectively. The final instalment has to be paid in 1983 after which the holder of the Golden Card will be entitled to the facilities he has paid for.

So far so good. There have been the usual problems like those involving labour, procurement of steel and escalating costs, all which have contributed in a large way to put up the original cost of the project by over 40 per cent. But these difficulties recede into the background when compared to the confusion the scheme has caused with regard to the Eden Gardens. The Cricket Association of Bengal has over 16,000 members. For Test matches these members are entitled to tickets without further

charge. The remaining tickets are distributed to various cricket clubs and the rest are also sold to the public. Under the proposed plan 10,000 holders of Golden Cards will have to be accommodated at the Gardens. The CAB does not like the idea of giving up so many seats with the plea that the scheme is 'anti cricket'. A spokesman of the CAB, who preferred to remain anonymous, elaborated, "Calcutta is a cricket crazy city. Throughout the world there has been a decline in gate proceeds. There are hardly a few thousand people witnessing the Test matches in Pakistan. However, there is still tremendous enthusiasm when a Test is played in Calcutta."

"There are two reasons for this reaction among Calcuttians," the spokesman continued, "they just love the game and moreover the

tickets are within their means. However, cricket lovers of the city should not be taken for granted. In the Test matches against Pakistan and Australia there was not a full house. In the Golden Jubilee match there were players of the calibre of Gibbs and Harvey and still we could only sell tickets at a nominal Rs. 2. Unfortunately, there are many sports associations in the state which do not have their own grounds and this is the very root of the problem.

A slight digression would perhaps explain things better. The Bengal Lawn Tennis Association does not have tennis courts of its own and as such depends on member clubs when

it wants to run a tournament.

The CAB is somewhat in the same position. It just does not have a ground of its own.

Mr Kamal Basu, secretary of the SSS, wonders "What guarantee is there that if we do not take the 10000 seats at the Gardens that the CAB will not put them to some use? If they are given a lease or we do not take the seats, they will immediately take another 20,000 members and then claim to have the game at heart. Let me tell you something, the CAB has only tried to disrupt our scheme by getting a few Press men on their side and hoping to mould public opinion. They have no rights what-

soever and are a group of professional sports organisers trying to create unnecessary problems."

Mr Jagmohan Dalmia, secretary of the CAB, when contacted by *SPORTSWORLD*, was hopeful. "Negotiations are on at this stage and it is better I do not say anything as any statement by me at this juncture might jeopardise an early settlement. However, in our heart of hearts we do wish a second stadium to be built as we are truly interested in the promotion of sport." Mr Dalmia went on to say, "on behalf of the CAB I hope that a peaceful and amicable settlement is reached in the near future and the stadium

The Eden Gardens viewed through a fish eye lens

TARAPAK-BANERJEE





finally built. The only point I wish to make here is that the Society for Sports and Stadium or the government for that matter, should have consulted us before going ahead with the project. We are sure we could have provided at least some of the money and helped in the administration to make the project a success." Has the scheme been a success so far? The secretary of the SSS asserts that "the Golden scheme has not failed, it is a success." But he has also stated that Rs. 10 crore was expected to be collected from the scheme and over 10,000 members enrolled. However, till the time of going to Press the general public have shown a pronounced apathy towards the scheme. Initially there was a mad rush to acquire forms but now Mr Basu admits, "it has just become a trickle."

The society is going to a great lengths to rekindle flagging public interest and have launched an extensive and expensive advertisement campaign. One is not very sure of the exact amount that has been spent on the campaign so far. When asked by this correspondent what the exact figure was the secretary stated 'nowadays the cost of advertising has gone up quite a bit and so we have had to spend quite a bit.' The Golden Card scheme is now being splashed regularly in most local dailies and even a leading fortnightly carried an advertisement recently. From the look of things quite a few lakhs have probably gone into advertising.

The results of the advertising gimmick have been very disappointing for the SSS. Come hither lines like, "Incredibly but true. The Golden Card lets you see soccer matches at the Salt Lake Sports Stadium and Test Cricket at the Eden Gardens" have not had the desired impact. The basic reason why the advertisement is appearing has been judiciously tucked away in the bottom right hand corner. It reads, "Please hurry, enrollment for membership has begun." After the initial spurt things do look less bright for the society that has undertaken this thankless task. But good back to them!

There have been conflicting reports which have appeared in the Press with regard to the number of people seeking membership. According to Mr Basu, who did not give exact figures, membership in the A category has not even reached the century mark. "The biggest rush for cards" is in the B category, the obvious attraction being to have a seat reserved at the Eden Gardens for a Test Match.

Even if a few thousand aspiring members have taken membership forms for themselves, recent developments indicate that the deposits to be made in three instalments may not, after all be paid. If there is an apathy at this early stage



The proposed stadium under construction at Salt Lake. The photograph taken at the end of May 1962

While on the subject of the success of the scheme, one must mention that both the West Bengal government and the SSS have realised that there must be a sufficient flow of finance. Therefore, besides raising money through the sale of the Golden Cards in categories A and B stress has been laid on the third type of membership the institutional one, whereby a firm in the near future can purchase in the words of Mr Kamal Basu, "a block of, let us say eight or ten or even more tickets." Another point of much interest is the setting up of a special sub-committee in which a number of leading industrialists have been nominated to serve. The sub-committee includes among others Ravi Modi, Jit Pal, S K Raha, Raghu Modi, J N Sapru, G P Goenka, Sudhir Jalan, B M Khanai, P C Goenka and B H Singhania. There is little doubt that the unstinted support of these industrialists is needed for the construction of the stadium. Mr Basu the SSS secretary put it very bluntly when asked to explain the role of these magnates in the special sub-committee. He said "They are simply there to mobilise financial resources for the construction of the stadium."

Since a large chunk of the money is to come through corporate membership, there is nothing wrong in involving big industrialists, who may besides living, in the words of the advertisement, "firms, companies and public sector enterprises or any other corporate" to invest in the scheme can also be of much practical help, as Mr Basu puts it, "recently Ravi Modi was trying to help us procure steel."

The debate continues and in the process there are many claims and counterclaims. The CAB claims that they hand over Rs. 25 lakhs to the government each time a Test match is played, on the other hand the secretary of the SSS states that, "only 20 per cent of the profit is given to the government and this sum hardly ever exceeds Rs. 8 lakhs." "The CAB should consider themselves lucky, because while the other

clubs on the Calcutta Maidan have to pay for the maintenance and upkeep of their grounds and clubhouses, the government looks after the Eden Gardens." Mr Basu continues.

There is little to dispute the fact that the Cricket Association of Bengal has little legal claim on the use of the Eden Gardens. In the recent past the Association made a request to the State government for a 99 year lease which was not acceded to. However apart from the legal aspect there is much in favour of the CAB. After all the Eden Gardens is a symbol of the game of cricket in the city and the government or the SSS for that matter, will have to go against the grain of tradition if they decide to ask the CAB to vacate.

Besides, the Board of Cricket Control for India allots a Test Match to its member associations of which the CAB is one. Thus if the CAB is not in a position to host a Test Match for want of a suitable ground, Test Matches may not be held in Calcutta at all. No other society or body can be authorised to run an official cricket Test Match.

It must not be forgotten that the dispute is not like the one in Bombay between two rival associations, it is between an association and a Government sponsored registered body. Obviously odds are in favour of the latter.

Fortunately the Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu who is also the President of the Society for Sports and Stadium is making every effort to reach an amicable settlement and it is hoped that in the interest of cricket lovers in the city and the game itself his endeavours will meet with success. The future stakes are too high to be fitted away in a dispute about who will sit where.

It is 5.30 pm. Our friend Partha Chowdhury is back on a mini-bus, this time on his way home. It's been a hard day and a bad one. Rain at Lahore spoilt the cricket there. He puts his hand into his pocket for his fare, feels the Golden Card form. What should he do? He'll see tomorrow is another day.

# The Salt Lake Mirage

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL

A dream was to come true. Calcutta was supposed to watch the proceedings of the 1983 football Nationals at a new stadium, built by expert technicians and equipped with almost all the latest facilities—something the metropolis had been craving for over a long, long time. A Press announcement was made by the organization, looking after the stadium project, that soon the sports lovers of the city as well as the State would see their dreams take shape in reality and the Santosh Trophy football tournament would be staged at the Salt Lake stadium, now under construction to mark the beginning of a movement to make Calcutta the nucleus of the country's sports activities.

That was about eight months ago in April '82. Now we are going to step into the new year and the football Nationals are only two months away. Preparations must be going on in full swing at the site of the Salt Lake sports complex and efforts must be on to iron out whatever small snags are

still standing in the way. Yes, one could be thinking on those lines and looking up the newspapers curiously, wondering when the final announcement was going to be made by the government or the SSS (Society for Sports and Stadium), the government-sponsored body which has of late assumed tremendous fame, or rather, notoriety, thanks to their novel 'Golden Card' scheme and of course their long-drawn arm wrestling with the Cricket Association of Bengal, the so-called big bosses of the Eden Gardens.

But sorry. This writer regrets to inform you that there is absolutely no chance for the proposed site to come to even a playable condition before September and that too if no more unforeseen obstacles crop up to stand in the way of the construction work.

"The main problem facing us at present is non-availability of building material, especially steel," said Kamal Basu, the secretary of the SSS, continuing, "There are so many kinds of steel. Sometimes we get one, while the

others are unavailable. So we cannot help but stop work and wait for the arrival of the type our work requires."

"Moreover, there was that problem of the Asian Games. The Central Government had attached tremendous importance to it, and naturally all sorts of construction material had been diverted to Delhi on a top-priority basis. As a result, over the last six months work continued only at a snail's pace at the Salt Lake Stadium site."

The question that crops up naturally in one's mind is whether any special effort had been made by the authorities to sort out the problem. When asked about it, Basu said, "We approached some top people in the construction material industry and tried to convince them how seriously we need to complete the stadium in time. Some of them were cooperative, indeed, and they tried to help us. But somehow or other, mostly due to technical problems, things just did not get going."

"Also, there had been some other problems," continued Basu, "like the issue of bonus for the workers. Some people even threatened to stop work. My proposal was to make some advance payments instead of bonus. But there were some reservations about it on the other side and we got stuck in a stalemate. Anyway we overcame all these problems through negotiations."

The project was first taken up way back in 1976. But the political upheavals in the country in the subsequent years took a heavy toll on the construction work. The frequent changes of government



at the centre and the general instability in the political atmosphere in the State resulted in the work being halted on a number of occasions, raising serious concerns in interested quarters whether the complex would come into being at all or not.

Some sort of political stability was restored in the State after the Left Front came to power in 1977. Now work on the main stadium, or in other words the first phase of the complex, started on a war footing, despite a number of obstacles standing in the way. The effort was aimed at building at least the main stadium on schedule.

At that stage, the greatest difficulty was gathering funds as well as building material which are always in short supply in this country.

As the situation seemed set to lead the project to failure, the State government started giving serious consideration to the problems, especially the main one arising from lack of money. At last, it came forward to contribute Rs. 5 crores—4 crores directly from its own funds and the balance after collecting money from the public by issuing a restricted number of individual life memberships and institutional memberships. And hence the origin of the 'Golden Card'.

It was also decided to allow advance booking of the hoarding space available in the stadium. The total area of hoarding space would be 5,000 sqm approximately. In one word, the government

in close cooperation with the SSS, tried to raise funds from as many sources as possible.

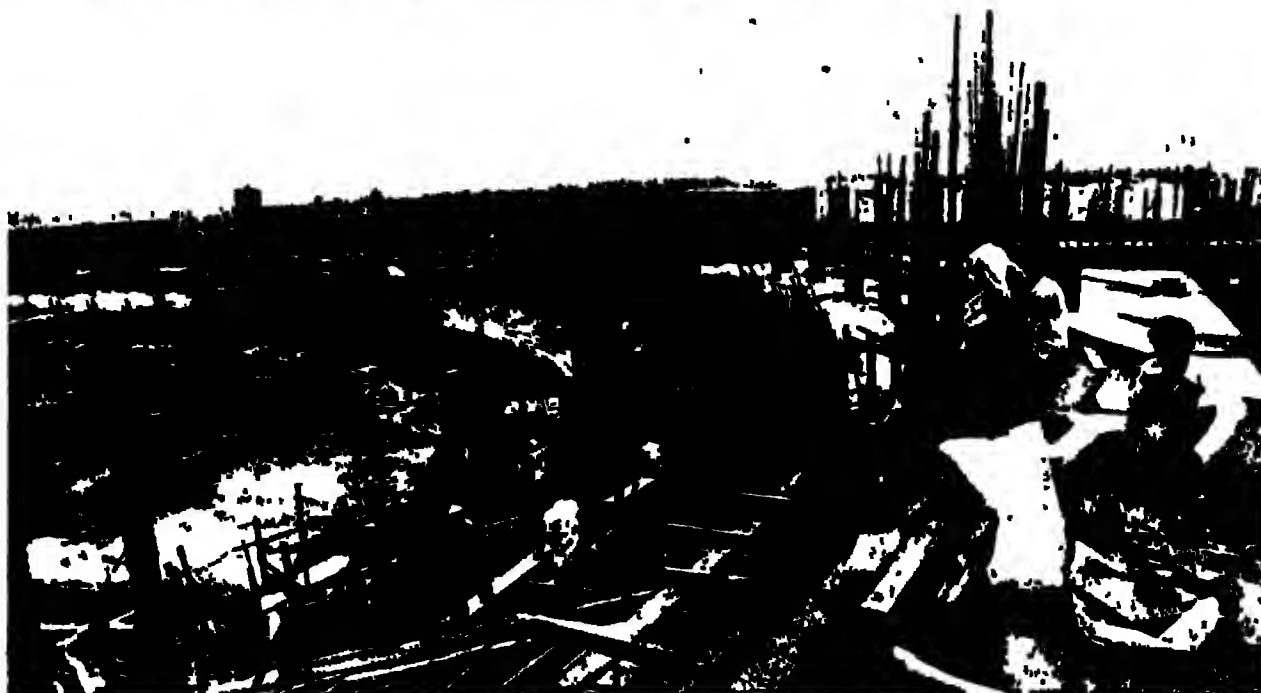
Some bank authorities were also contacted. Of them the United Bank of India straightaway refused to give any sort of help to the project. However, the Canara Bank authorities, perhaps with a view to win the sympathies of the local people, which would help them increase their clientele in the State, showed some interest in the project and decided to give loan to the SSS at a rather low rate of interest. "In fact, why the United Bank of India declined to help was rather difficult to figure out", said Basu, "They were talking about a guarantor without which they said they could not give us any sort of loan. This was rather strange. We are after all a government-sponsored body and the government is directly involved in the whole project. Then why so much doubts and misgivings? Actually, you know, though I regret to say this, yet it's a fact that there always arises a streak of regionalism in the attitudes of all India authorities whenever it comes to dealing with West Bengal. I knew this and one of the reasons why we approached the UBI was that its local boss was a Bengali. But all the other directors were Delhites. Of course, I'm not absolutely sure whether this was the only reason for which they declined to cooperate with us."

"But even more strange was the way Reserve Bank Of India interferred in our dealings with the

Canara Bank. After they agreed to give us loans at a low interest, the Reserve Bank authorities intervened and overruled their decision on the ground that ours was not a top-priority project. However, we are still trying to continue our negotiations. But I don't know what will be the results. To be frank no body is cooperating with us. Even when somebody comes forward to do, obstacles are being heaped on his way."

Asked about the construction work, Kamal Basu said, "We have told the engineers that they have got to complete the first phase by June/July. Otherwise they will be sued. But the problem is they don't want to take any risk as far as the longevity of the structures are concerned. So they always insist on top-quality material saying that when completed the complex will be a unique thing in India and very few countries in the entire eastern Asia have got the know-how of such a modern piece of architecture. Hence no risks whatsoever should be taken and no compromise should be made as far as the quality of the building material is concerned."

And now all that we sports-lovers can do is to keep our fingers crossed and await fresh controversies to crop up and new bouts of tug-of-war to break out between the State and the Central government who, according to the boss of the SSS and of course the Chief Minister of the State, are not at all interested about the Salt Lake Stadium complex.



## ONE-DAY CRICKET

# India submerged

MUDAR PATHERYA  
reports from Multan

INDIA were submerged again in the one-day series in Pakistan, though this time more honourably as the home team beat them by 37 runs to go two up with two to go. And the Man of the Match was Zaheer Abbas, exponent of proficiency in more departments than one. He got himself the third hundred in successive innings against the Indians on this tour, then got two very vital wickets just when things mattered and then the scales had tilted.

India's problems centred around their fielding, ground as well as aerial. A bit of preening in proper places and a needle finish would have materialised. What resulted was that the Pakistanis enjoyed as many lives as a cat, batted to the brim, and while the Indians engaged themselves in hackwork under a warming sun. With no fielder showing aptitude for putting hand to hand and holding fast, the issue showed a complexion of being decided even before the Pakis had finished batting. To mount the migraine, Gavaskar was out with a sprained leg and Madan Lal on fitness grounds. The team looked, honestly speaking, right out like a maiden side pitted against professional prolifics.

Nor did India's opening in reply to the Pakistan's 263 prove anything to contrary. Only a few minutes after going in Arun Lal was returning as he had driven Jalaluddin into Mansoor at square leg for six. With the score at 16 Srikanth was retreating from the lines bowled by Jalaluddin as he tried to cut. The batsman had made eight. More surprisingly, the solid Mohinder settled for an early exit, on drove off spinner Fakih in the air at six and Mansoor Akhtar had done it again. India were then 34 for three and with 18 overs to go India looked running out of steam.

But Bombaymen Patil and Vengsarkar went on a consolidation spree. The former took some time to look at the wares, then announced himself with a six off Fakih. In the bowler's next two overs Patil helped himself to a couple of more shots right into the stands and very soon Patil was raising his bat for the half hundred.



Zaheer Abbas—Man of the Match



**Sportsworld**  
MOHSIN KHAN  
FAROOQ OSMANI

India were now perched at 111 for three and 17 overs lay ahead

But the climax had not been reached. The sequence began when Patil despatched Sikandar Bakht over his head for a boundary off two bounces, following it up with one through midwicket.

This time no one moved. The partisan cheering had also died down—so this was the mister Patil that they had heard of. But Patil was far from done. He clobbered the numbed Sikandar this time off a full toss for four past mid on.

Sensing destruction, Imran brought on Mudassar from the city end of this surprisingly green and pleasing ground. The 100 of the alliance was registered without delay in 14 overs and from Bakht's end Imran passed the ball to Zaheer. He seldom bowls in first-class cricket, and his simply flighted parabolas might even prove too innocuous for the maidan, why even road, cricket back home. But here we had Veng sarkar driving in the air and Bakht had held on at mid off to dismiss him for 37. With India at 142 for five and 13 overs to go the fight now looked to be slipping.

And indeed it did when Patil at 161 made designs to banish Zaheer out of the ground, lifted the ball high into the heavens under a waiting Miandad and had holed out for 83. The scales had tilted now though Kapil did show intentions of staging a coup. Yashpal too supported him for a while, hitting fours, but he went at 190 when he missed a Mudassar delivery, was bowled, and Kapil was left to weather the onslaught.

The captain for the game immediately extracted revenge, lifting Zaheer into the yelling yobboes he had long off, then a four next ball to bring up the 200. But five runs later, the stands had erupted again. Kapil had been howled by Mudassar for 35 in the 34th over and the fire had gone. The rest of the overs were seen out by Kumari and Shastri and India had got 226 when the shutters were pulled down. Pakistan lost Mudassar at 40 for 13 when the batsman went for a third dangerous run and was thrown out in the process—memories of Gujranwala. That proved to be a blessing for Pakistan. Zaheer arrived, almost edged the first ball off Sandhu, then uncorked his vintage by rushing to meet Doshi, and converting a four past cover off a ball pitched outside the leg stump. Next over he refused to take two off a Mohsin shot, settled to strike and glanced Mohinder behind his back for six. At the end of the over, the 15th, Pakistan were making do at the rate of almost five an over.

But it might have been worse had Kirmann not missed Mohsin stumping off Doshi. The Calcutta left arm had things controlled for a bit of time. In fact, he went on to bowl the only maiden over of the innings,



Mohsin Khan -magnificent





Sandeep Patil—great innings

before Zaheer turned to him again. Third time it was, a swept four, then a six over mid wicket before Mohsin Khan joined in but a four off Doshi and laid content.

A while later, Srikanth at fine leg had floored Zaheer off Shastri at 54 and the batsman immediately went at length to trot out how big a slip up it had been. Ten runs were accrued off the next two balls and Shastri had been displaced from the shooting line.

The desperate Kapil now put in Yashpal and Patil at long on had predictably dropped Zaheer first ball at 66. Yashpal succeeded for some time in checking the out-rageous flow of runs but he too was caught out later for the wicket. Zaheer laid him in just below the Press enclosure for six, then had him going for 100 next ball.

And as if to punctuate the jocular mood Sandhu it was now who floored the skying Mohsin off Doshi at 76. The batsman then got six off the same bowler over the same vicinity, but now the captain had slipped away. Zaheer got the ball then walked out to meet Kapil. The cautious gentleman took a lady and ideas in hitting him down the rightwicket, charged his mind and footwork at the same time and covered a two exquisite four part point Delirium. But he was bowled a few balls later when trying to make a repeat at 114 and it was now Mohsin's turn to acknowledge the clavers. Fortunately, there was no intrusion this time for his hundred.

To round off the morning on a typical note, Kulkarni failed to hold on to a M'andad flyer off Yashpal and Pakistan walked on with 263, Mohsin 117 and withate's, M'andad have

## Sidelights

A few weeks back games involving the night of Pakistan is always a sight for the cricketers' parthenon, but not if it is in Multan. An English traveller called it "one of the most splendid memorials ever erected in honour of the dead." But this township was far from inactivity during the day of the International. Some 25,000 managed to force themselves in through little arched steel gates bringing back visions of gunpowder, armoured raids, forts and history as old as this city itself.

The arrangements were primitive to say the least. A temporary exit meant no possible means to gain readmission and those affected by nature's contretemps either had longed for. The result, pandemonium, came to such a lead that one bright minded photographer actually walked out during the middle of an over, trekked to silly point somehow appropriately and clicked Zaheer during his award winning knock. And even the gentlemen of the Law sat back and grinned.

It was really intriguing how a centre of such organisational incapacity could be set down for an International of consequence. Hardly any fencing had been erected and any small punt made in the game was treated as an excuse to park oneself in the playing area. At times it was only autographs during the middle of an over, but on others it was a flood of humanity on the playing

area. At one stage at least a hundred totally ignorant onlookers ploaked down in front of the sightseers simply because the stands could afford no more and from here they could also buy a clearer glimpse.

If the headaches had been reserved for only these inconveniences then the matter would still have been tolerable. But even the performers were not spared. Zaheer's hundred was signal enough for another collective intrusion. It began with gentle patting on the back until a crank spilled a soft drink onto Zaheer's face. Then another kissed him on the face with passion enough to send the shariat bench scurrying for their scissors. But Zaheer still kept his cool, the smile and sang-froid that one has on this tour so easily come to associate with him until one dolt almost grabbed his spectacles, jerked his cap and then Zaheer had blown a vale. He waved his bat around and tried to hit to retaliate. By this time the amused official gentry had arrived and a bit of sweater pulling did ensue before Zaheer was released. Concentration seemed to have lapsed and next ball he was slapped hard on his knees by Kapil Dev though narrowly missed the blow verdict. Luckily no riot erupted during the match. Had it, as there had been chances, quite a few of the parents back home would have heard the last of the cricketering and journalistic dallings.



Scenes from the match

*Sports world*  
MANINDER SINGH  
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA





## WORLD ARM WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

### India fare well

**A**RM Wrestling is slowly becoming popular in India and the world. The first World Championships at Wetskwin in Canada in 1979 saw India, the United States, Canada and Brazil begin a four-way world meet organized on modern sports basic principles i.e., classification of weight categories, set rules, publicity and of course the international touch.

Seven men from India represented the IAWF and names like Kalika Dutta, Rajen Mili and Ranabir Pinag became household words in many a State. People now began to understand that their 'old familiar' *panja* was now an organized world sport. The National Arm Wrestling Championships attracted over 100 male participants. 1980 was a good year for the sport as Calcutta hosted the World Arm Wrestling Championships. This time, Australia with a lone participant made it a five nation meet. India also had the proud privilege of sending a team to Perth, Australia for an introductory India vs Australia contest. Mr Universe Monohar Aich was the coach of the team. The Indian team defeated Australia 5-1 in this meet. Now, arm wrestling as an organized world sport is attracting professionals, with prize money even up to \$50,000 being offered in the United States.

Arm wrestling had come of age. The tremendous public appeal of this popular but inexpensive sport is

being recognized all over the globe and the Government of Brazil decided to give 'recognition' to the Brazilian Arm Wrestling Federation, led by Dr Laercio Martinez (of Powerlifting and Body Building fame) and agreed to sponsor the hosting of the third world in Brasilia. The hosts took full advantage of having more competitors, and won the team titles with some well merited wins.

The WAWF or World Arm Wrestling Federation with Bob O'Leary as Chairman, has in the meantime nominated Brij Baran Das of India as the international Chairman, responsible for promoting the sport all over the world. Today the WAWF has over 30 nations under its big and small on its membership list. The sport is attracting a wide spectrum of people, young and old, men and women, due to its competitive spirit and relative cheapness.

It may be noted that both the Men's and Women's National Arm Wrestling Championships are being held in India, with the recent Hyderabad Nationals attracting close to 400 participants in the 12 men's and 10 women's weight divisions. An amusing point of contention at the International level is the effort of the WAWF's Western nation members to increase the number of weight classifications in the upper (higher) categories and the Indian groups efforts to increase the same in the lower groups. This point was a much argued topic during this year's Fourth World Arm Wrestling Championships held on November 12-13 and 14th Syracuse in the United States.

Like many a privately sponsored



India's Kalika Dutta poses with the runners up trophy

The Indian team



meet, the 4th World Arm Wrestling Championships for men and women was the result of an effort to promote sport at the community level in a particular area. The Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce has already hosted several world class meets. Apart from the Arm Wrestling Championships, Syracuse will in February 1983 host the second USA vs Russia Boxing Championships.

This year, Syracuse world meet had India, United States, Canada, Brazil, United Kingdom, Costa Rica and Guatemala taking part with the last three competing for the first time. India had its largest ever team for a foreign arm wrestling meet, with the 18 member team including veteran international Kalika Dutta, Suresh Patil, the well-known Kanade brothers, Pritta Ashok, Puran Singh, Mahammed Sayeed, Tripura's Sanjay Sen. Several national champions from the Punjab, including Daljit Singh, Sarabjit Singh also took part. The well known arm wrestling organizer, Jasbir Singh Lovely was the coach. A notable performance without a flaw was the refereeing of India's Rinal Chanda (Chanda a former weightlifter and navy man, is

fered in several of the final bouts, and also attended the WAWF referees clinic, held prior to the Worlds India already has the distinction of having the WAWF's seniormost referee, in Mr Meher Ali of Andhra Pradesh who has refereed at three World meets i.e., India, Brazil and Australia

The Indian team won the fourth place in the seven-nation contest, with the hosts USA coming first with 199 points combined for the men's and women's events Canada were second with 72, Brazil third with 51 and India fourth with 11 Guatemala picked up 3 points in the men's 65 kg class For India, veteran Kalika Dutta picked up 6 points which made him second and he won a beautiful trophy Sanjib Sen and Katta Ashok were placed fourth and got one point each

In the Women's category, Chudei Mohini Ranade was placed third and secured 3 points As with world class sports, the main focus was on the heavy 110 kg class where Brazil's double world champion, Roberto Pareja was relegated to fourth position with his arch rival Steve Austin of the USA again coming back to the world rankings as winner in his class

A special trophy, artistically made was presented to India's Brij Bajan Das by the World Arm Wrestling Federation, for his service to the sport worldwide The 1983 Worlds will be held at Costa Rica in South America and the 1984 Worlds in the United Kingdom It may be mentioned here that India and the United Kingdom will possibly meet in annual arm wrestling Test matches Thus, arm wrestling marches on

**BARIJ BARAN DAS**

## WORLD POWERLIFTING

# No financial weight

**T**HE XII World Powerlifting Championships were successfully organised by the Bavarian Weightlifting Federation at the Rudi Sedlmyer Halle in Munich The indoor stadium where the championships were held in early November is a very modern structure—large, centrally heated and has the capacity to seat 10,000 spectators All the arrangements which were made for the competitors were, indeed, praiseworthy

The opening ceremony was conducted with clockwork precision Participants and officials alike did not have many problems with transport and the temporary office installed at the hotel took care of the needs of the competitors

The lightest category, the 52 kg class saw a keen tussle for medals, placings and team points Japan's

Hidekai proved that he was not still over the hill when he won the title for the ninth consecutive year This rare feat is a great achievement by any standard Chuch Dunbar of the USA could not match the performance of the veteran and had to be content with second place Phil Stringer of Great Britain was placed third in this category Braj Bhushan Singh of India improved upon his National mark while placing sixth among eight participants S V Sudhakara another Indian participant lost a lot of weight prior to the championship because of indisposition and finally had to take part in this category where he did not fare well

Another old warhorse, the American Lamar Grant, won the title in the 56kg class for the fifth consecutive year lifting a total of 590 kg The other placings were not so easy to come by as most of the other powerlifters were more or less the same standard After much suspense Y Haatanen of Finland was the runner up while the English powerlifter N Bhairo took third spot P J Joseph of India put up a gallant show to end up fourth beating powerful lifters from Australia, New Zealand, France, Switzerland, Holland and West Germany

The results in the 60kg class were a foregone conclusion, as the Finnish powerlifter K Lampela easily walked away with the gold medal Goran Hamysson from Sweden, a comparatively new entrant to this sport took second spot while another newcomer from Belgium, W Van Wemmel came in third India's M J S Kumar did not fare particularly well, only managing to come 13th among the 17 competitors

Results in the 67.5 kg class, however did not go according to form Here the winner of the last World Championship held at Calcutta, an Englishman by the name of Eddie Pengelly was defeated by Stefan Nentis of Sweden who had earlier only placed sixth at Calcutta Both powerlifters lifted a total of 697.5 kg but Nentis took home the first prize because of his lesser body weight The bronze medal in this category was won by the Australian C Waschiel Even though India's P Javappa improved upon the Indian National mark he only managed to place tenth in a field of 12 powerlifters

Competing for the second time in the World Championship Ricky Crain of the USA won the gold in the 75kg class The silver medalist Marku Pesonen from Finland was quite some weight behind as M Martina of Holland took the bronze Out of a total of 11 competitors India's seventh National champion Indrajit Singh would have probably have finished in the first eight if he had taken part but could not do so, because of what were described as

'financial reasons'

In the 82.5 kg class, Mike Bridges (USA) lifted again to earn gold but no records set up by him and it was clear that every one knew he was the best powerlifter in the world today Mike Duffy (GB) and Max Staum (West Germany) fought for silver and bronze respectively Totally there were 20 competitors in this class As per the Indian National record our competitor could have secured a position in the first ten to earn a few points for India but could not go owing to financial problems

The 90 kg class saw little competition Out of a total of 16 contestants Walter Thomas, a black powerlifter from the USA, won the gold comfortably followed by Bill West (GB) and S Kiviranta (Finland) No competitor was selected from India in the class

The 100 kg class witnessed a big upset Jim Cash (USA) who won gold last year in Calcutta was defeated by Kenneth Mattson (Sweden) Even for achieving second place the American he had to struggle hard to defeat Tony Stevens (Great Britain) by only 2.5 kg to get the silver Out of a total of 13 contestants, Indian National Champion Govind Rai Dhirman of Punjab could have won eighth place if he was in Munich He also could not go owing to financial problems This is the first time in sports history that a blind powerlifter, Avalina Lopez of Spain, lifted on the platform and made a total of 610 kg Indeed a brave effort

Out of a total of 7 contestants in the 110 kg class H Sairalainen (Finland) secured first place followed by Siem Walfse (Holland) and Ross Darnell

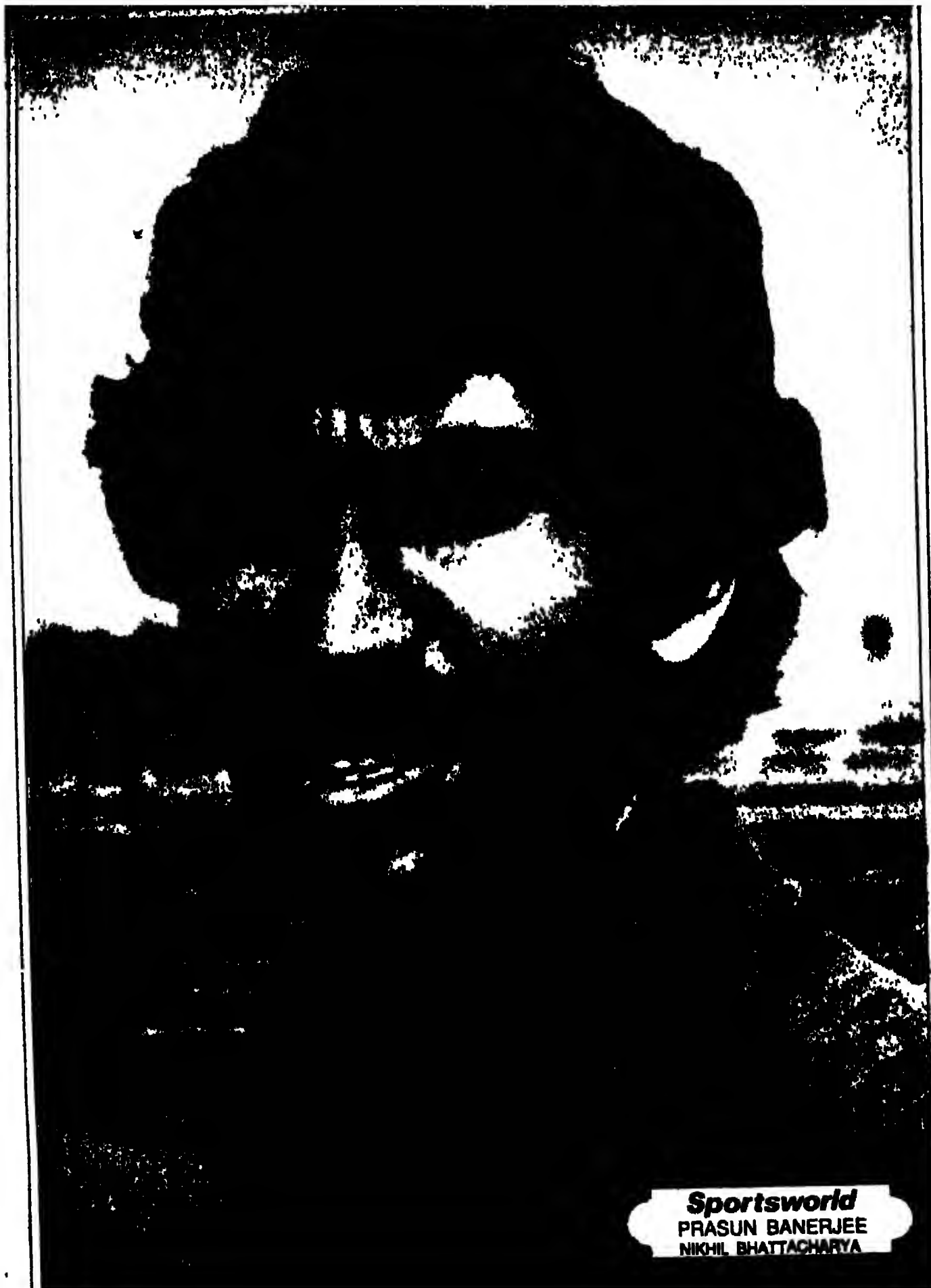
In the 125 kg class, out of 6 contestants John Gamble (USA) took the top position when he won the gold medal followed by Roger Exstrom (Sweden) and A P Walters (Holland) for silver and bronze No lifter was selected from India in this class

The highest class, the 125 kg saw Tom Magee (Canada) retain his top position But credit goes to an 18 year old new entrant from USA, Wayne Bouvier, who fought gallantly A heavier body weight made him second Andy Kerr (GB) took the third place leaving the other three competitors at the bottom of the list

One hundred and fifty participants from 19 countries took part in the four-day championships Though there were only 5 participants from India, we did fairly well earning 13 points to place 14th

Finance is the biggest problem for Indian powerlifters As the Hon'y Secretary of the powerlifting association we regret to mention that the Ministry of Sports, Government of India did nothing to help us come out of the woods

**MONOJIT BOSE**



**Sportsworld**

PRASUN BANERJEE  
NIKHIL BHATTACHARYA



# The Prasun Puzzle

SUPRAKASH GHOSHAL investigates the mystery surrounding footballer Prasun Banerjee's reported retirement from international soccer

**T**HE famous footballer Prasun Banerjee has retired from international football—that was one of the headlines of the evening news bulletin of the Doordarshan on December 12—a shocking piece of news for the millions of football fans of the country, especially Calcutta.

And so it was for Prasun too, because when the news was being telecast Prasun was in no better a position than an ordinary TV watcher enjoying a relaxed winter evening in company with his beloved ones. But, Prasun's mind was not totally free of worries. There was that Asian All Star exhibition matches in Kuala Lumpur for which he was selected, thanks chiefly to his splendid performances for India in the Asiad, and there was still no sign of the air tickets, which were to be sent by the organisers, Prasun, being a player who had to build up his career in a country where conspiracy and fraud resulting in the jeopardy of a sportsman's career is something quite common, was a bit uneasy about the uncertainty of the situation. And now came the word of his exit from the international arena to take him by utter surprise.



Parminder Singh



Prasun Banerjee in action during the Asiad

The TV report coming from a leading news agency (not PTI) was attributed to an important official of the All India Football Association. It said that Prasun had written a letter to the secretary of the Federation, Ashoke Ghosh, saying that he wanted to retire from international football for some personal reasons among which one was his desire to get married.

And there sparked off a controversy. The next day's newspapers carried a statement of Prasun denying the report. Prasun said that he had never written any such letter to anybody, nor did he ever had any wish to do so. On the other hand he was awaiting the air tickets which were to come from the organisers of the exhibition matches in Malaysia.

Denial also came from Ashoke Ghosh the man who was reported to be the addressee of the letter of retirement. In a Press statement he said that no such letter had come to his department. "I just could not think of it. There was no acceptable reason why Prasun should quit international soccer at this stage. Nor did

I get any letter from him to this effect," said an astonished Ashoke Ghosh when this writer met him to get his version of the matter. "Immediately I decided to contradict the agency report which really put me in an embarrassing position and also seemed certain to jeopardise the career of a leading footballer like Prasun," continued Ghosh. "Actually I smelt a conspiracy in the whole affair. I found no other way to figure it out. Somebody from somewhere, whether belonging to the Federation or an outsider must have been trying to ruin Prasun's career. I was all the more worried that prompted by this malicious report the organisers of the All Asian Stars matches might drop Prasun from their list. So I was anxious to get my denial across to everybody through the media."

In the meantime the situation was taking a rather mysterious turn, atleast as it seemed at that stage, beyond the knowledge of the Secretary of the AIFF. It was the inclusion of another Indian player in the All Asian Stars squad—Parminder Singh, the man who was strongly backed by a powerful group in the Federation for the post of captain of



Ashoke Ghosh



K Ziauddin

the Indian squad during the Asiad. In fact, he was elected vice-captain and skippered the Indian team in one or two matches in which Bhaskar Ganguly, the captain, did not take part. A telex reportedly came from the Malaysian organisers informing the AIFF President K. Ziauddin that Parminder has been selected for taking part in the matches.

Strangely, Ashoke Ghosh was totally in the dark about this Parminder development. But for an unofficial source, having an admirable presence of mind, Mr Ghosh would not have come to know of it before the news would appear in the Press.

And it was this piece of news that worried him the most. It was natural for him to presume that Prasun had been dropped and Parminder taken in his place. "I did not mind Parminder getting a berth, but why should Prasun be dropped, especially after everything had been finalised at Delhi during the Asiad", said Ashoke Ghosh.

The word of Prasun's selection for the matches was brought to him by S Swamy, an official of the Malaysian football contingent and an important position holder in the Salangore Club who were organising the show. Luckily, it occurred to Ghosh that he should have the proposal of Prasun's inclusion in writing. Otherwise, he would have been in a weak position when even the AIFF President Ziauddin told him over the phone that he knew nothing about the Prasun affair, but Parminder's tour was confirmed.

Now the only way open for Ghosh was to send a strongly-worded cable to the organisers threatening to take up the case with FIFA and AFC (Asian Football Confederation) on the strength of the written document, if Prasun ultimately missed the bus.

But that too did not seem to work. Initially, there was no reply from the other side and an anxious Ashoke Ghosh had to phone Murugesan, Secretary of the Malaysian Football Association, to sort out the problem.

Once again Ghosh insisted on the written document. Now a distressed Murugesan requested him to see to it that Prasun could reach Bangkok in time and assured that the amount the Federation would have to pay for tickets would be reimbursed later. And now at last Prasun's trip was finalised. But the report about Prasun's alleged retirement still remained shrouded in a mystery, at least till the time of our going to Press, much to the agony of Prasun who, according to one reliable source, closely connected with the AIFF, was so upset that at one angry moment he even talked about suing the agency, for spreading such an 'irresponsible' piece of news.

On the other hand, the news agency in a bid to protect its credibility claimed, in another news item published in a number of dailies of the city, to have got hold of a photostat copy of the alleged letter of Prasun.

When contacted by one of their representatives Ghosh wanted to see the photocopy, if they really had got any. But till Press time, no such photocopy could be produced by the news organisation. "If they fail, we will well be in a position to sue the agency for putting us in an embarrassing position through false reporting. Imagine what would have happened if Prasun really had to suffer for no fault of his own. The Federation office-bearers would have been lynched by the same people who these days are dealing in false news", concluded Ashoke Ghosh.

Now, that was very much like a challenge from the secretary of the All India Football Federation. And the question that remained unanswered was would the news sellers be able to give a good reply to it and salvage their credibility? That, of course, would pose fresh problems for Prasun as well as the Federation, because in that case either the former will have to admit that he told a lie or the Federation will have to seek out the black sheep among its officials who started it all and punish him.



Prasun Banerjee signing the form before joining the Asiad preparatory camp

# BSF best

**B**SF, Jullunder, last year's Nai Dunia runners' up and seven times Durand Champions, won the All-India Nai Dunia Football Trophy at Indore recently when they beat a strong ITI Bangalore, 1-0, in the finals. The glittering trophy was presented to the BSF Captain, ex-International, Narendra Gurung, by Mr V C Shukla, President, All India Council of Sports, while the runners-up trophy was awarded to Aslam Khan, the ITI captain who had recently been in the Indian squad during the Asiad.

The Nai Dunia tournament the most prestigious soccer competition of Madhya Pradesh, was, this year, a six-and-a-half lakh rupee affair and its success can be gauged from the fact that teams like BSF, Jullunder, Punjab Police, Punjab State Electricity Board, and ITI, Bangalore, elected to take part in it instead of the Rovers Cup at Bombay. In fact, even SESA had wanted to come, but because of their engagements in the Rovers Cup, they were replaced at the last moment by the Vittal Trophy runners-up, Tamil Nadu President's Eleven, who surprised everyone by reaching the semi-finals. After the end of the tournament the BSF man-

agee, ex-international Arjun Singh told *Sportsworld* "This tournament is equivalent to the Durand and has now assumed All-India stature."

EME, Secunderabad, who were the Nai Dunia Champions in the inaugural year were made to play in the first round this year, and Western Railway, Bombay, had to play in the qualifying round. Aryans Club, Calcutta, could not make it to the semi-finals of this tournament. Rajasthan Club, Calcutta, who only a month ago, had defeated the Harwood Champions, Mahindra and Mahindra at Durg, also had to suffer the same fate.

The last minute entry, Tamil Nadu President's Eleven, was, in fact, the entire Tamil Nadu State side except the star centre-forward Nagesh, who plays for Indian Railways. They surprised everyone when they topped their group with an unbeaten record and reached the semis eventually defeating the ultimate champions, BSF, 2-0, in the quarter-final league. Punjab Police, topped the other group, but they incurred the curse of the crowd and the organisers when they played a cooked-up game with ITI in the quarter-finals to draw their match, which they could have won

The did this with a view to oust PSEB in the quarter-finals, who, it must be acknowledged were the best team in the race. However, they unfortunately lost to both Punjab Police and ITI in the quarter-finals.

In fact, so terrifying was the presence of ex-international Manjit Singh in the PSEB that no team wanted PSEB to reach the semis. PSEB found their form rather late, when they thrashed Railway Football Club, Calcutta, 4-0 in a quarter final league match. And, if Punjab Police could have won against ITI who had surprisingly lost to RFC, Calcutta, 0-1, in an other quarter final league, then, PSEB would have reached the semis at the expense of ITI on better goal average.

But poetic justice was meted out when Punjab Police, last years' Nai Dunia champions, lost to BSF in the semis, 5-6, in tie-breaker, and in the other group, Tamil Nadu were shocked by ITI 0-3, who played a methodical game to bottle up Nagesh and left-in Isaac and thus blunted the Tamil Nadu attack.

Manjit Singh showed his class as a schemer. Had the PSEB centre-forward Darshan Singh Goga shown only one-third of his shooting prowess that he had shown both at Gangtok and Darjeeling recently, and if their winger Bhupinder had converted only a fourth of the innumerable chances that Manjit created for them, then PSEB would have easily lifted the Nai Dunia



The trophy being presented to BSF skipper Narendra Gurung by V C Shukla, President, All India Council of sports



D. Bania, the custodian of Rajasthan club makes a remarkable save

#### Trophy

Manjit told *Sports Illustrated* that he was making a strong bid to come back to international soccer this year and that he would prove his prowess once again in the forthcoming Nationals. Ironically, though PSFB lost in the quarter finals, Manjit Singh was given the Best Player's Award.

Punjab Police came third when they beat Tamil Nadu President's Eleven 2-1. Before we went to some interesting matches and the final, a word about the performances of some of the star players in the com-

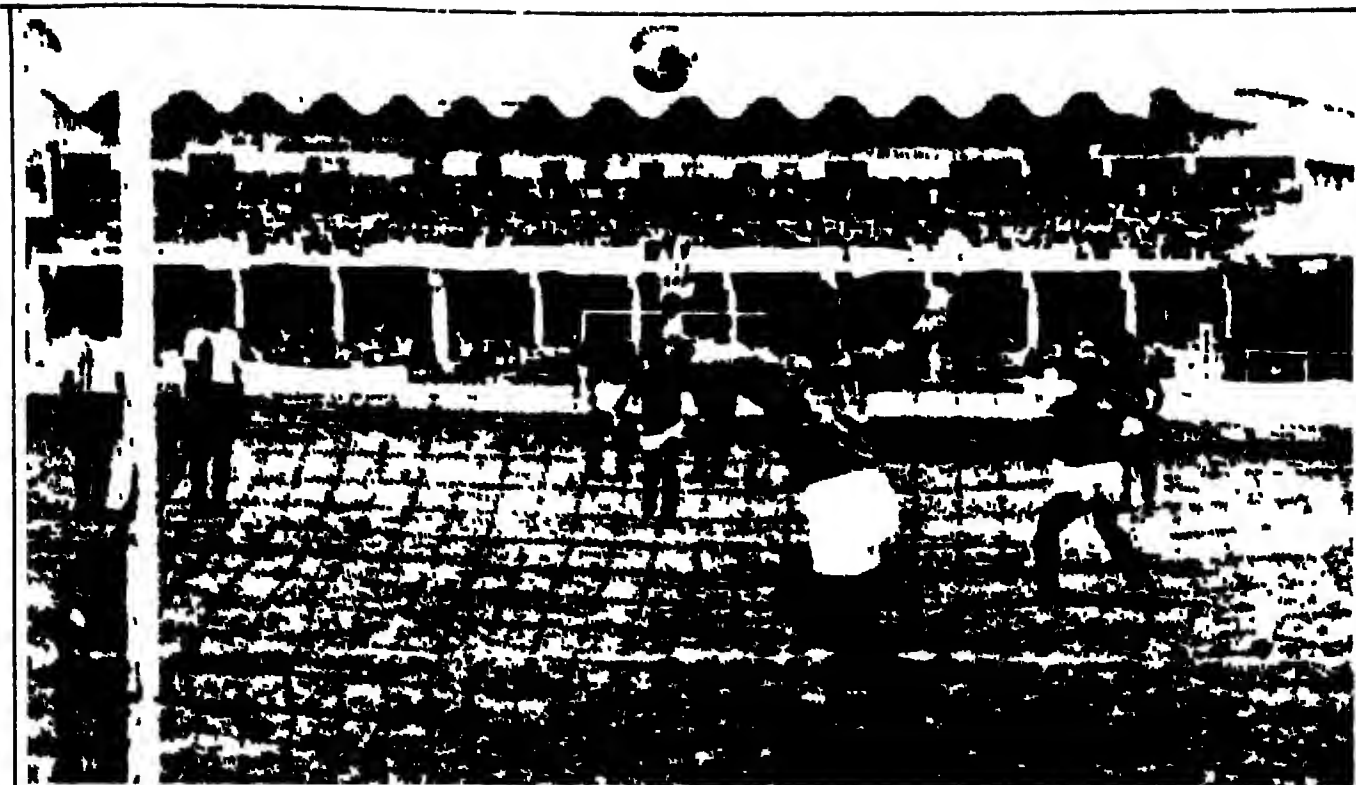
petition. Narendra Gunning of BSL, who till last year was a li name, was in indifferent form and seemed more interested in playing to the gallery rather than making constructive moves for which he is renowned. Aslam Khan, playing as a striker for ITI, played the game of his life against PSFB and this match was rightly described as a battle between Manjit and Aslam. Balwinder Singh was fast but patchy, tending to waste time while turning round. And, one felt that he was rather frustrated that he was made to play in only one international

match for India and that too, for only fifteen minutes. But Manjit Singh, without an iota of doubt, with all his brains and brawn as a scheming genius, seemed set to to emerge as a future India international prospect provided he gets the blessings of Ziauddin, the AIFF President.

Yashpal of PSFB was the speediest fullback in the tournament. He combined wonderfully with Majumdar in Nagash at centre forward for Tamil Nadu, was the best centre forward and took first-time shots at the goal. But once checked, he was outplayed.



International Aslam (second from left) of ITI rushes to tackle a speeding Yashpal of PSFB



The winning goal in the final by BSI's Keshukripal off a penalty kick

P Mazumdar, the left winger of Rajasthan was the most intelligent winger and showed some great runs. He has the tendency to sprint right up to the touchline and give immaculate lobs and minuses for his forwards to shoot home.

Tamil Nadu President's Eleven were the first to reach the semi-finals when they defeated Arjuns Club, Calcutta, 2-0, in the quarter-finals league, both goals being opportunistic goals scored by star centre-forward Nagesh, who got admirable support from Isaac. Though the Arjuns left winger Lokesh Roy and striker Mudak were speedy their weakness lay in the lack of finish.

Arjuns drew goallessly with BSI in another quarter-finals league encounter. They fumbled in taking shots at the goal from inside the danger zone, and made short passes before the goal mouth instead of shooting. This was the most frustrating aspect of all the Calcutta teams.

However, it must be admitted that though Rajasthan Club, Calcutta, were ousted from the quarter-final League, when they were beaten 0-3 by Tamil Nadu, they impressed the knowledgeable crowds here.

The match that excited everyone was a quarter-final league encounter between Punjab Police and PSEB which the latter lost 0-2. Both the goals were first-timers taken by the Punjab Police centre-forward Balwinder Singh. It was a pleasure to watch the 20-year-old Vashpal of PSEB at left-half combine with Manjit at left-in. Manjit, playing with a swollen right-toe, dazzled with his

bulky swerves and deft ball control to take the Punjab Police defence by storm and then give immaculate through passes just at the feet of centre-forward Darshan Singh Goga and right striker Bhupinder. But all this went to waste.

The match that really shocked PSEB was another quarter-finals league tie in which they were beaten 0-2 by ITI one a set goal and the other off a corner-kick taken by

winger Thomas of the ITI. This match was a bitter experience for PSEB, because they missed ten easy sitters, seven of them by Bhupinder alone. And, all these sitters were created by Manjit. The finals between ITI and BSI was a scrappy affair, with both the teams not taking any risks. The winning goal was scored in the dying minutes of the game when a penalty was awarded in BSI for what seemed to be an unintentional handling of the ball. The ITI players refused to continue the game arguing that the linesman had already waved the flag for a BSI off-side before the handling of the ball by the ITI defender in the danger zone. The entire game was extremely fast-paced and both teams played 4-2-4 and interchanged positions. In fact, the ITI players were frequently creating off-side traps. They seemed to be the better team but their forwards specially Thomas missed two easy sitters. Left-out Ghosh and left half Bal of BSI made many openings for the BSI forwards but their centre-forward Pradeep Sribha was a flop.

After ITI's defeat, then Manager, R Chandappa told *Sportsworld*, "Our forwards, especially Thomas, Ravi and Mahendrapal failed us again. But, mind you this is the first match in our journey we are playing this year."

Chandappa was of top class with Bengal's Ravi Chakrabarty and MP's Narendra Tiwari being outstanding.



Gurung makes it 6-5 against Punjab Police

SUJEET MOHANTY, Indore



# **RALLY NEWS**



## **Mysore Safari Rally**

**W**HAT is it that makes a twenty years old collegian and a forty-five years old coffee planter stay up all night counting cars on a fog drenched, lonely ghat section mud track? Or, for that matter, what is it that sends a 'perfectly sane' textile ancilliary manufacturer all the way from Bangalore to keep 30-hour vigil on a bare public field in Chickmagalur whose only previous claim to fame was that it had played 'host' to Mrs Gandhi in 1977?

Would you believe a motor sports rally? Bleary eyed with calibrating speed and distance charts, the officials of the Motor Sports Club of Chickmagalur who have just launched their maiden venture are joined by bone weary, temporarily bow-legged

motor bike riders in their opinion of this up and coming sport. Say they "once you get into this sport and once it gets into your blood, you're hooked. You'll beg, borrow or steal to get your bike or car ready for the rally and you'll give your right arm to be able to breathe in the fumes and the dust, to bump along the highways and byways (mainly the latter), wallowing in the slush and the muck and daring your fate each time you do wheelie over a bad patch or take a spin around a curve."

With the addition of Coffee 500,

run mainly on country roads within a 60 km radius of Chickmagalur town (in Karnataka) the number of motor sports rallies being held during this season goes up to 8 starting with the Sholavaram (though this is a race not a rally) in February. The season continues with the South India Rally in June/July, the Karnataka 1000 in August, the Coimbatore Rally in early October, the Himalayan Rally in late October, the Mysore Safari in December and the Charminar Challenge in January. The very fact that, even being new and quite inconveniently

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# **KEEPING TRACK**



# RALLY NEWS



*Victims of mechanical failure*

sandwiched between more popular events the Coffee 500 managed to attract 29 participants, amply illustrates the growing potential of the sport

A senior official of the Karnataka Motor Sports Club traces the "active beginning" of motor sports in the South to "somewhere in 1954" At that time the

accent had been every State had its unused World War II airstrip which was ideal for track racing. However, when these airstrips started becoming operative the

need was felt for rallying. This particular activity started buzzing in the South in 1975 with the South India Rally, followed by the annual event of the year—the Karnataka 1000 "Right now I can very boldly say, without fear of being challenged, that motor sports is more active in the South than the North. In fact we have come to a stage where the boys from Karnataka will practically walk off with most of the trophies available in any given race, be it at Madras or Coimbatore." The official added, "if they don't participate in the more prestigious Himalayan Rally it is not because they lack grit. The major problem is, and always will be, finance," he added.

Which brings one down to the nitty gritty difficulties which continue to dog this sport, despite its high audience and participant level appeal. In the 'paddock' of the Coffee 500 this correspondent was told that the average amount needed for "fixing up" a bike for a rally was between Rs 3000 and Rs 4000. So where does the money come from? "Beg, borrow or steal," flippantly quipped Nandkishore who had won second place in the two-wheeler category at the Karnataka 1000 this year. Of course, he added, "I have just about managed to get my bike in shape this time. If I don't get anything then I go home broke. But, even in that event, it will be worth it. I'm not in this for the money, just for the thrill." (Which is just as well because, Nandkishore and his partner Mohun, took a bad toss and were out of the race in the first sector itself.)

Gautam Kadam views this problem more seriously. "Though we ride Ye/edis we prefer to say that we are entering the 250 CC specials class. I admit this is because we are upset with the company. We are the guys who are getting

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# KEEPING TRACK

# RALLY NEWS

their bikes famous (Gautam had won first prize in the Karnataka 1000 on three occasions and countless other rallies—all on his Yezdi.) Yet when we approached them for some help they cold shouldered us. So we dropped their name." Adds Gopinath Shiva (Gopi), vice president of the KMSC if sponsorship is available it has come only from the ancillary manufacturers—Vikrant, MRF, Mico and also from other companies who have nothing to do with the sport but know that it could provide good publicity. No sponsorship is currently forthcoming from the direct auto industry. "You'll be surprised that not one paise is coming either at the club level or competitor level from Ambassador or Fiat or Jawa or Rajdoot." Have they been approached? "Yes," as Kadam says, "they have been approached but they are not interested, it's the sport and the race that betters the breed. Whether it is horses or cars it's the same thing. Unfortunately because these auto manufacturers enjoy this total monopoly without fear or any other competition they have done exactly what they want."

However, adds Gopi, 'it's just a matter of time'. He and other club officials are convinced that the manufacturers will soon have to associate themselves with someone or the other. Or they are "Not going to sell their product." They reason that, with the advent of Suzuki and Yamaha, etc. in the Indian market "All this riding their high horse will have to go." "What other way would you give publicity to an automotive vehicle? How long can you try selling it just with a beautiful model draped around its fender?" Adds another motor sports buff.

The surprising thing is that,

sans sponsorship and encouragement from the big manufacturers, the sport still goes on. And judging from the response to the annual Karnataka 1000, and the Coffee 500, it goes on with a vengeance. "The rallying concept here is different from that abroad. Let alone having no cars for rallying, like they do abroad, we don't even have tyres built in for rallying.. but we are rallying. There's no two ways about it, the Indian is one of the best drivers in the world," claims Gopi. How so? "If you drive in Germany nothing will cross the road. Here everything including a ghost will cross. I've known a friend who went and crashed into a tree because he thought he saw a ghost. The Italian is considered to be a fancy driver because he weaves in and out but I believe the Indian is superb. Look at the conditions under which he drives, a sub standard car, on some of the worst roads ever imagined. And yet he is doing a wonderful job keeping heart and soul together."

**T**HE call of the wild came through clear and sibilant. It echoed to the four corners of the land and the rallying teams came a-hunting. With reputations, lists of achievements, sweaters, jackets, boots and space helmets. Their vehicles looked like lunar modules—odometers, stickers, cow-catchers and even wireless antennae adorned the interiors and exteriors.

What would have been viewed by an outsider as just one of those umpteen "trips" evoked no undue comment from the citizenry of Mysore. The reason? It was Mysore Safari Rally time, again.

The work, begun by the Automotive Sports Club of Mysore in August, built up to the culmination at 1800 hours on December 11, the time flagging-off began. It brought in its wake more than its fair share of headaches, sleepless nights and checking, re-checking and checking once again of the route, which was drafted after traversing between 4,500 and 5,000 kms.

Spectators jammed the Bannimantap grounds at Mysore, cameramen nervously fingered their flashes hoping the bulbs would pop in synchronisation with the click of the shutter, and those about to leave on the hunt for rallying glory (an estimated 32-hour 1198.9-km run) smoked endlessly, gave last-minute touches to their vehicles, many of which wore garlands that had been supposedly blessed by the deities at the nearby temple.

And then they were off. The chequered flag in the hand of Ideal Jawa managing director Fartokh Irani swept down and the first two-wheeler took off. The parallel honour for four-wheelers went to Vikrant Tyres managing director G. Asvathnarayan. Sixty-two vehicles—32 cars and 30 bikes, left by 8.04 pm.

But trouble was not far ahead. Some wise guy—either for a lark or deliberately, had placed a road roller on the bull road of Chamundi Hills, close to the first check point. Some vehicles got through, others returned and frantically asked the marshalls at the next check point what they should do.

According to one of the organisers, Siraj Asger Ali, all they were asked to do was to reset their odometers at 216, at the point which coincided with this reading, and carry on. But some apparently zeroed their time at this checkpoint. This was some-

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# KEEPING TRACK

# RALLY NEWS

thing which was to mess up all their calculations and bring them to the boil by the time they reached the end of the first section at Somwarpet.

Meanwhile, the feedback began trickling in at the rally office. Mobile and base hams, two of each, crackled to life and lists of numbers, and checking-in times started going down on the records. The early drop-outs also made their appearance, carrying tales of woe and looking frustrated.

The cars were flagged off, beginning two minutes after the last motorcycle left, and as their speed charts had higher speeds, they began overtaking the bikes one by one. On mud roads, which comprised nearly 350 of the 537.5 km run of the first section, it was no fun for a biker to have a continuous stream of mud flying in his face. Those who did pull out early had minor falls, skidded off the road and damaged their vehicles.

The fancied motorcyclists were doing as per speculations. Gautam Kadam and rider Farokh Ahmed, Ramaswamy and Balamurali Krishna, Nandkishore and Chandrakumar, all with reputations flying high, were doing well.

The ones tipped to create an upset, N K Ramesh and K M Jagannath followed in their wake, silently and steadily. The cars too, ran true to form during the night—Ravi Gupta, D R Shivarani, Karivardhan, Suresh Naik and J Srinivasan—all of whom had heaved sighs of relief when Dayanand Mandre and Arindam Ghosh were non-reporters, ground the mud tracks to something resembling ploughed fields, as they pelted along, wheels spinning at each turn as they cut the gears.

The wee hours of the morning saw the gentleman in one car driver, Uday Nachappa, spring to the fore. Sighting Kadam, who was struggling without headlights, Nachappa drove behind him, with his kindly light helping the boy for nearly 200 kms. Gautam had other problems too—his vehicle's peak speed was a disastrous 65 kmph and he was growing more desperate by the minute.

Another fancied pair—Selvaraj and Suganthiraj of Coimbatore, had Dame Fortune deserting them. Going for a mighty toss at a corner, the pair had no option but to pull out as they, and their vehicle, were in too had a shape to finish what was beginning to look like a rally driver's nightmare.

Back at the rally office, the first casualty turned up. C Ramakrishna of Bangalore was out of the rally as early as 12.35 a.m. when, with two cars just ahead of him and another looking for the chance to overtake, he skidded and fell heavily. With torn riding gear and looking rather sorry for himself, he returned.

Ham operators Raju, Balu and Marcus began producing lists—49 at the first checkpoint, 50 at the second and were unable to contact the third. "They were so involved with the rally that sleep was thrown to the winds as they hunched over the receivers, pencils and pens at the ready, collecting data for the eager group that crowded around."

The bunch appeared on the Somwarpet horizon around seven the next morning. Bleary-eyed, nostrils filled to capacity with

fine sand and their vehicles looking as though they had been spray painted dark brown, they trooped in one by one, sighing with relief for the 90-minute free zone. The majority had some repairs to be attended to, and while they munched on sandwiches and swilled coffee, the machines, which were to take them back safely, were their major concern.

While here, they voiced their woes. Shivarani had his dynamo give out, Kadam had decided to pull out and send his driver on alone, Naik had lost his way, Mudraiah who was in a jeep was forced to run on two gears as the third was stuck, Srinivasan forgot that his engine needed oil and had it go dry, M A Nanjappa with his wife Anita, the lone lady navigator, had fallen a few times, Balamurali had zeroed his odometer at the second check point—oh, did they have tales to tell!

But the woes of Rishad—who was with Girish Gupta, Subbiah and Harikumar in a four-wheeler, topped the list. A faltering battery meant they could either have the headlights off while moving, or keep their lights on and stay put. They managed 110 kms and then—discretion is obviously the better part of valour—came straight to Somwarpet, the cheering thought being "let's at least do the second section completely."

As fast as they came, the vehicles left, some to the Somwarpet town for repairs, others along the route, and still others back to Mysore—the bunch who decided they'd had enough.

What they were in for was to take the stuffing out of most. The route, for another 13 checkpoints, revolved around Somwarpet and they kept hitting the same or nearby areas time and again.

As Nanjappa put it "My odo-

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# KEEPING TRACK

# RALLY NEWS

meter would be at around 77 kms and then I would see another guy coming back on a road parallel to me. How could I know his odo was at 90 or 95 kms? My immediate reaction was that he'd lost his way, returning and trying to relocate himself."

As the day wore on into the afternoon, the base ham at Mercara, 40 kms from Somwarpet kept up its stream of information. The number of vehicles clocking in at checkpoints began showing a downward curve. From forty to thirty it descended, until the seventh checkpoint saw just 22 clocking in before the point closed.

Back at Mysore, preparations were on, to receive those who dared the route. The first was expected around 104 a.m. and the *parc ferme* wore a crowded look, doctors, timers and spectators thronging around even though the hour was an ungodly one.

Meanwhile the rallyists were going through hell and high water. The Sullia Ghat, the numerous forests, the estate roads and the winding tarmac took the breath out of machines which began to wheeze and cough, making the pulse of those inside shoot up, fearing a breakdown.

The ghats at Sullia, in particular, were so steep that tractors had been kept at the ready to tow those who could not make it. Even a speed of 12 kmph proved too much and many had to unload their passengers, drive up and then reload the people. On first gear, the noise emanating from machines which had looked sleek and trim the previous evening was a pointer to the bruising they had taken.

The worst was yet to come. Came Peruvapatna and another 150 kms to the end. Here the tulip

have found their way and gone on."

According to Ravi Prakash, the actual odo reading at this point was 528.1. With a left turn indi-



cah had a mistake—one of many, but this proved to be the Achilles Heel of many a rallyist. As rally chairman Feroz Asger Ali put it later, "They were fatigued, very irritable and I could even say desperate at that point. There was a mistake in a particular reading at a particular point—by about a kilometre, but there was no mistake in the direction of the marking. This irritated the fellows. One of them lost his way, he got a group together and the whole gang got into the mess. If there was nobody stranded earlier, possibly the others would

cated on the tulip, there was no turn anywhere around, that elusive left being a kilometre away at 529.1. Said he, "I lost about one and a half hours, searching for the turn along with two others, Kari vardhan and Deepak Chopra. I had accumulated only 21 penalty points up to Somwarpet, but shock absorbers which gave way cost me time and this additional hassle made me very late at the last four checkpoints."

Others like Rajen Joshua gave up the search after well over an hour, driving straight to the *parc ferme* and thus loading the points

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# KEEPING TRACK

# RALLY NEWS

against them

Nanjappa, who had been driving at full throttle for practically the entire second section—he confessed latter that he was scared his bike would not last and unaware that the rally was running late—kept hitting check points as much as 25 minutes ahead of time

He managed to hit all the checkpoints, barring the 12th of the second section where the marshalls arrived late, having been held up by forest officials who suspected them of being sandalwood smugglers. NK Ramesh, however, wriggled out of the mess by trying the tested remedy of reaching the next tulip marking, checking his odo and finding that it tallied, continuing on

The next result was that Ravi Gupta arrived at the *parc terme* at 1 07, and then there was a long wait. Nanjappa romped in at 1 55 followed by two cars at 2 29 and 2 52. Thereafter, while the cars streamed in at intervals ranging from four to 64 minutes, the next bike—that with a solo rider Appaji whose navigator Sujith had left at 263 kms after being injured, came in only at 4 09. Fortythree minutes later saw the next two wheeler arrive and by 5 12 only six which had completed at least a major portion of the rally had clocked in. Sixteen cars came in by 6 52.

The tales of woe began all over again. While the news that Naik had broken his differential opinion around 100 kms from the finish and Karivaidhan had got stuck due to mechanical defects came through various sources, there were other firsthand accounts. Muddaiah had hell keeping his foot pressed on the jeep accelerator while he drove in second gear, the third being

Anita, who guided her husband to the second place, said they had been confident of a place before the rally began. "We had a slight advantage because we come from Coorg where the roads are difficult to negotiate and the rally passed through a good bit of that district. But the marshalls should part with information a bit more willingly and to all," she said.

Rajen Joshua, the man who located a navigator only hours before the rally, was thrilled with the result he had achieved. "I lost my cool a bit at Periyapatna but I was determined to finish. I nearly dropped off to sleep during the last 100 kms and at Sullia I had to send my navigator walking up a steep section while I rode up," was his comment.

The other two who obtained placings in the motorcycle class, Ishrath Ali and P A Kathiravelu found the whole affair a trying one. Ishrath expected a second place but his vehicle was holding and not speeding as much as he wanted it to. His navigator had difficulty with the seat rest and found it difficult to calculate.

The only two who were hindered by the wild, though, were Nandkishore and Balamurali Krishna. At a certain spot, a lone elephant had watched quite a few cars and bikes go by and its pressure had gone up a good deal. Unfortunately the animal chose to step out when Nandkishore and Balamurali were approaching. Ramaswamy had had a fall earlier and returned to Mysore. They were held up for the better part of two hours and the rally was as good as lost for them.

From the organisers' point of

view and that of the sponsors too, the rally was a great success. Opined Feroz. "This year a new team set the route and thus a few mistakes had crept in. Though I did run over the route once, somebody else was doing the navigation. However, the problems have been minor and most have found it an enjoyable experience." His brother Siraj who was involved in setting the route had this to say. "We do admit our mistakes when they are pointed out. But when they are rubbed in as blunders, then it is a different thing altogether."

Vikrant Tyres, who were the major sponsors for the rally (Ideal Jawa Limited was also a sponsor), can take a pat on the back for the fact that all five top cars were running on their tyres. Managing Director G. Asvathnarayan felt that the rally had been growing in strength and the spirit of adventure spreading.

They had been associated with other rallies and also with Mysore Safari before but never to such an extent. He was happy at the credit that had come to them. Vikrant Publicity Supervisor Anupama who was involved with liaison work for the rally said they had sponsored 13 entries by providing a set of six tyres each. Other monetary involvements included providing the starting ramp, barricades, trophies and royalties for various other things. Personally she was thrilled to have been associated with the rally and said she didn't mind all the running around involved.

And so another rally is confined to the pages of history. The tears of the winner, the melancholy loser, the tired vehicles which are now at the garage were all a part of it.

LOUISE FERNANDES

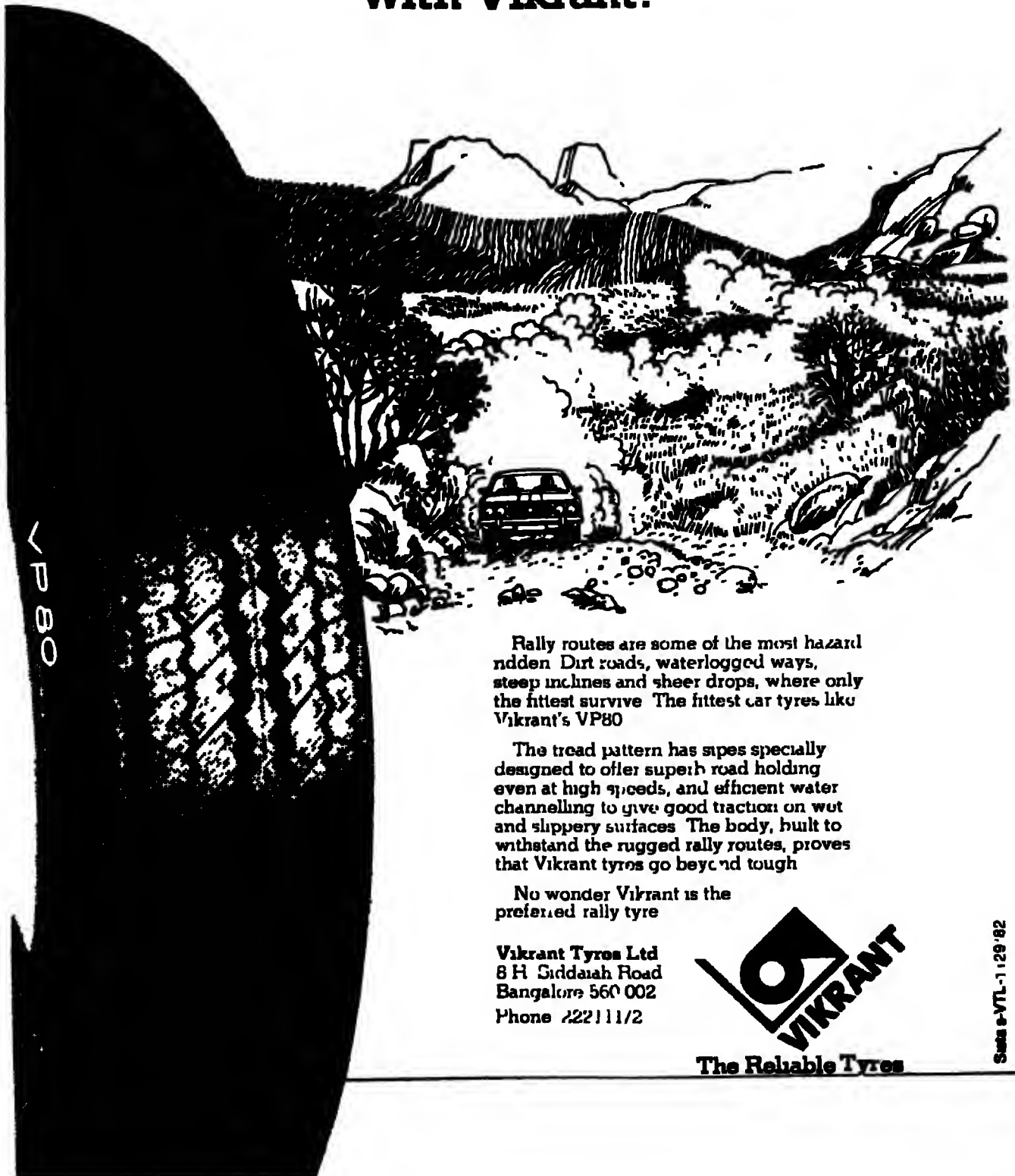
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# KEEPING TRACK



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## Regional round-up

## DELHI

## DCM Football

**A**FTER the heady floodlit fare of the Asian Games, Football in Delhi once again found its familiar more relaxed air at the Ambika Stadium with the start of the DCM tournament. Gone were the security men and gone also was the need to hang round your neck your identity card; then place was taken by familiar faces with the old informal smiles and nods of recognition. The pass that you carried in your pocket was just in case the man at the gate was not the same person who had let you in last year and the year before that.

[illegible]

The Bay area is a national hot spot for the sickle-cell anemia carrier. It crossed the ocean to the north and cleared the land to the south. The Bay area is a hot spot for the sickle-cell anemia carrier. It crossed the ocean to the north and cleared the land to the south. The Bay area is a hot spot for the sickle-cell anemia carrier. It crossed the ocean to the north and cleared the land to the south.

As for the Amputees, they continued their advance in the tournament when they beat Pomona State. The twenty Boats which left such a high jump season last year.

The premier stage of the D.M. tournament is usually taken up in weeding out the local clubs whose standard in the last few years has remained poor. They are there by virtue of then being First Division clubs in the past city. There is little else to commend them.

The sad truth is that there is little to commend Indian football in general, not just the standard of the game in Delhi. Take the case of Hyderabad. One had last year thought that football in that once formidable centre was again on the rise. But after a 3-0 victory over Bokaro Steel, they

tell by the same margin to Gockha Singhde, who also are poor reflections of the teams of several years ago. Bakara Steel coached by Peter Thangaraj were pale shadows of the team that raised hopes of better times last year.

National Engineering Industries  
 Jharkhand and Rajasthan Police have  
 also not been able to stay for long  
 NRI went down to the Army's Cen-  
 tral Command D-2 and Rajasthan  
 Police whose chief pillar continues  
 to be Maran Singh, were knocked  
 out by Ayans of Calcutta, 24, after  
 an undistinguished display.

A touch of distinction was lent to the tournament for the first time when Bombay's Malatol Club defeated the Air Force in a pre quarter final match.

The next afternoon Uli Banga, a prominent Cebuana's Rajas basketball player, was a pre-quarter final to compete with Itel Mills, Phag-

## North Zone Ranji Trophy

**A** STUNNED throw away at the cricket test of Levozeshah to the Indians in Delhi, it was an impressive start to their team's campaign took eight points for a new set of win over the Indians to save their tally to 16 points of points from two previous matches and made all Delhi nervous.

At the eight points they should have taken from their match with Unnao and Kachhar. Tulin should be through to the knock-out stage. If Poonch has our match should decide which of these teams accumulates the most points from the north into the quarter-finals. Without Mohinder, Unnao, Tulu Lal and Marimdaai Surin show whom are in the touring party of Pakistan. Delhi are no longer the dominating force they have been for a long time.

A cont. by a Philur Sut enabled  
Seyers put up a respectable 221 in  
the second round after they had  
a victory in 164 in the first  
round who made 297 in their first  
rounds. They did the victory target  
of 80 in the loss of skipper Chetan  
Choudhary. (A) D. RAHIA

**BANGALORE**

### Auto cross time

**K**ARATAKA Motor Sports Club (KMSC) is organising a national multi cross in Bangalore on December 26. The event is being sponsored by the MRF Tyres Company. This will

be an event of speed on an uneven and unaided surface, for cars and two-wheelers. A circuit of 1.8 kms for cars and 2 kms for two wheelers will have four sharp and tight hair pin curves, one of them being up to a very steep climb. About 8 cars will form a grid position basing on the lap time set up by the competitors before the event starts. Nearly 15 two wheelers will do the grid position on the same basis.

To suit the above competition, there are neither vehicles nor accessories available in India, but KMSC members are reportedly modifying their vehicles to take part in this competition. The main attraction of the event will be go kart racing, which is an elementary construction of a frame with four scooter wheels attached to a motor cycle engine in the centre with a skeletal seat. Any two wheeler engine can also be used and can be put back on the mabike

Thirteen events for all classifications of cars and two wheelers are to be held, each carrying 3 attractive cash prizes with trophies. An added attraction is to be special rates for ladies in both auto cross and go kart.

Entries have been flowing in from all over India and the final list may go on board by next week, vice president of the KMSC Mr. Gopinath Siva told Pressmen here.

**PUNE**

## West Zone Cooch Behar Trophy

**T**HIS year's Writ Zime Coach behar Under 19 cricket tourney saw the slaughter of innocents when Gujarat were offered as clinkenficed to a reasonably strong Saurashtra side which gobbled them as it wnt to each the right to meet holders and favourites Bombay in the semi finals. Host Maharashtra were to meet Baroda in the other draw.

Bombay batting first were served well by the attacking Jovajakash Jadhav (133) and Jitendra Thakate (98) to reach a formidable 331. Saurashtra crashed to a modest 215 in the face of some good bowling by Ashutosh Marathe (548). In their second outing the Bombayites hammered a solid 226 & declared leaving Saurashtra to score an impossible target of 342 at the tail end of the last day. Though the Saurashtra batsmen were 107/2 at close Bombay entered the finals on the first innings lead.

Dark horses Maharashtra in their match against Baroda collapsed to a poor 159 in their first outing. Yohc Nairate (5 33) doing much of the

damage. Baroda in reply mustered only 162 but they had the all important first innings lead of 3 runs and a major upset was in the offing. Maharashtra were once more in dire straits in their second knock but good batting by Capt. Shrikant Kalyani and the tailenders pushed them from 100-7 to 181.

It was only when Baroda came in for the final kill that miracles took place as they were skittled out for only 124 thanks to Maharashtra speedsters Bhosale (3-30) and Doke (3-8). So with this 54-run dream victory Maharashtra braced themselves to meet a determined Bombay. Beginning first on the placid batting track at the Nehru Stadium contrary to all expectation Maharashtra built up an insurmountable 451 and on the last day there were failures galore in store for the Bombay men as all their main batsmen flopped steadily and when the 20 mandatory overs began Bombay were 210-7 fighting hard to save the match and in spite of Vinay Vingkar's brave effort of 48 his team were all out for 270 in the 12th over much to the relief of the Maharashtra players.

Thus the Maharashtra colts got their first West Zone championship in 34 years. An achievement indeed.

The West Zone Under-19 squad selected later had four players each from Maharashtra, Bombay and Baroda and two from Saurashtra and none from Gujarat. Bombay skipper Rajdeep Sardesai (son of Dilip Sardesai) and Latif Parkar (brother of Ghulam Parkar) were not taken considering their poor performance with the bat. The chosen skipper Shrikant Kalyani (batsman) and Randolph Daniels (pace bowler) are current Maharashtra Ranji players and India Under-19 players and will be the West Zone backbones at the All India Meet to be held at Calcutta in December this year.

RAHUL CHANDAWARKAR

## BOMBAY

### Lakshman wins again

Lakshman Singh, who won a gold medal at the recent Asian Games in Delhi, beat Rishi Narain five and four to win the 82nd Amateur Golf Championships of India in Bombay. This is the second time in his career that Lakshman Singh has won this title. His previous triumph was registered in 1978 at Calcutta.

In the final Lakshman was in irresistible form when he went around the first 18 holes 2 under and eventually finished level par for the 32 holes played. He had birdies on the first and fourth in the morning round and was two up after nine holes. At this stage, his opponent, Rishi Narain, had not dropped a stroke to par.

Lakshman produced two more birdies and at the end of 22 holes he was four under the card and eight up on Rishi. However, the latter fought back to win the eighth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth holes to reduce the lead to four. Another birdie on the 13th put Lakshman in a comfortable position and Rishi failed to win the 14th and thus Lakshman emerged victorious.

The tournament attracted 70-odd entries. Among the sixteen seeds were Malcolm Lewis of England who won the event last year. The Indian challenge was led by six former national champions, A S Malik, Rajiv Mohta, R K Pitamber, Alan Singh, Lakshman Singh and Vikramjit Singh.

In the semi-final, Lakshman Singh was untroubled as he swept aside the challenge of Ranjit Nanda. Contrary to expectations, Nanda did not put up much of a fight, losing 5 and 4. Heavily tipped by the knowledgeable golfers to win this year's title, Ranjit obviously felt the effects of the fever he had shrugged off the previous day. While his approaches were just not accurate enough, what really let him down was the inability to consistently get down in two from around the green.

The other semi-final between Rishi Narain and Kanwalinder Singh, while not producing a very high standard of golf, was certainly a close fight.

Kanwalinder Singh, who had been sent by the Indian Golf Union to participate in the Junior World Golf Championships at San Diego (USA), knocked off third seed Rajiv Mohta, Asian Games silver medallist, in the quarter-finals, one up.

The fourth round saw the exit of three seeds. Raghujit Singh Randhwa produced the biggest upset of the week when he accounted for defending champion Malcolm Lewis on the 19th. Randhwa, a 20-year old Calcutta commerce student, has the reputation of being the longest hitter in India.

Colonel J S Rao was lucky to catch fourth-seed Arthur Pierse of Ireland off-form. Pierse conceded defeat on the 16th hole. While Kanwalinder Singh surprised seventh seed Achal Nath, Rajiv Mohia beat Alan Singh three and two.

In the third round, Vikramjit Singh, the sixth seed and five times national champion lost to Anand Desai. The latter won two up.

HARESH MUNWANI

### Tamil Nadu disappoint

TAMIL NADU's performance in their opening Ranji Trophy tie of the season against Hyderabad has caused dismay here. Cricket followers are asking the question: when will the batsmen and bowlers perform in unison for the State to do better?

For almost throughout the Seventies, it were the bowlers who really gave heart-warming performances, only for their batsmen to fritter away the advantage. How often did Venkat and company dismiss the opposing team for about 160—only for the Tamil Nadu batsmen to perform badly and muster up a total of only about 130.

Now it is the other way around and the match against Hyderabad was a case in point. The batsmen did well to run up a total of 373 only for the bowlers to fail in backing them up and Hyderabad's reply was 469 for nine declared. Talking to some of the Tamil Nadu bowlers I gather that the wicket was dead and the ball did not rise even bail height. But if that is their excuse, then it boomerangs on their own batsmen. What were they doing getting only 373 on that wicket? And after being 240 for two.

But with a total of 373 behind them, the batsmen naturally have come in for less criticism. People here are chiefly blaming the bowlers, making a special mention of Sekhar's figures of two for 85 off 22 overs. Sekhar is particularly destructive with the new ball but after two wickets with the first new ball, failed to take a wicket with the second one. It is being pointed out that a young, strong bowler who has come close to wearing the India cap should have finished with better figures. Also being discussed here is how a bowler of Venkataraghavan's experience could have given away 112 runs in 42 overs for one solitary wicket. Venkat has always been known for his ability to check the scoring rate even on a good batting track, but from all reports, he was dealt with harshly by the two century makers Qayyum and Vijaypaul. Yet in the past one has frequently seen Venkat make these two look like novices.

Tamil Nadu have already fallen behind in the normal three-horse race for the championship—the other two contenders being, of course, Karnataka and Hyderabad—by getting only three points from their opening fixture. They will have to pull off something out of the ordinary in the remaining three matches to remain in the hunt for the title, which they won last year.

### Athletics meet.

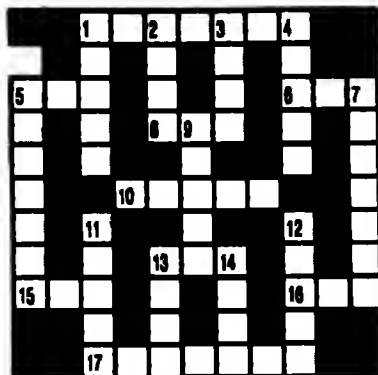
TAMIL NADU men and women retained the team championship in athletics in the two-day 15th South Zone Central Revenue Meet which was held at the Rajaratnam Stadium on December 14 and 15. The men scored 125 points while the women tallied 69 points. Karnataka came second in both the sections. The most impressive winner was Nissar Basha of Central Excise (Tamil Nadu) who clocked 10.9 seconds in winning the 100 metres sprint.

PARTAB RAMCHAND

# Crossword

MUDAR

177



## ACROSS

- 1 Boxer, who gained publicity by knocking out Angelo Jaucopucci, has a coin factory in between (1,6)
- 5 Table tennis player from China who left a World Championship final against Seiji Ono with a pulled muscle (3)
- 6 Where fitness maniacs often train out (3)
- 8 Cricketer Engineer's initials jumbled (1, 1, 1)
- 10 Politics writer from *The Hindu* who first broke the news that Mrs Gandhi had allowed the English tour to India in 1981-82 to go on (5)
- 13 A Laver, a Frawley and a Marsh have this in common (3)
- 15 Australian tennis player Rosewall initially (1, 1, 1)
- 16 Cricketing Nourse from South Africa, again initially (1, 1, 1)
- 17 A Noah but no prophet (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Egyptian squash player who ends with a pad of loose material (4,1)
- 2 Internal Amateur Athletics Federation (1, 1, 1, 1)
- 3 Lines on a tennis court (4)
- 4 Four-minute miler under the staircase (5)
- 5 Squash legend begins with dope (6, 1)
- 7 Crazy Square in New York, the venue for many a famous boxing fight (7)
- 9 At the—of the series between England and Pakistan in 1977-78,—side had recorded a victory (3, 2)
- 11 Reissen of the tennis world has a maternal beginning (5)
- 12 A strip for running is called this, so is a cricket pitch though crudely (5)
- 13 American middle distance runner whose name begins with James Donald (4)
- 14 Promising cricket player from Bengal who was chosen to play visiting England for the under-22 Indian team in 1981-82 (4)

Excellent :29-18; Good :17-18; Fair, 15-13.

# Question box

Answers by Sudhir Vaidya

Sudhista Saha and Paroma Saha, Maidah

Q What is the home address of G S Chappell and D K Lillee of Australia?

A You may write to the Australian Cricket Board of Control, Cricket House, 245, George Street, Sydney, NSW (Australia); wherefrom the letters will be forwarded to the respective cricketers Sanjeeva Mehta, Calcutta

Q Where and when was the first Test played?

A At Melbourne in 1876-77 between Australia and England

Sesajay Ray, Calcutta

Q How many Test players have scored a triple century in Tests? Who are they and what are their scores?

A G S Sobers (West Indies) 365 not out,

L Hutton (England) 364, Hanif Mohammad (Pakistan) 337, W R Hammond (England) 336 not out, D G Bradman (Australia) 334 and 304, A Sandham (England) 325, R B Simpson (Australia) 311, John Edrich (England) 310 not out, R M Cowper (Australia) 307 and L G Rowe (West Indies) 302

Surinder Prem Nagar, Jabalpur

Q Give me the Test victims of S M H Kirmani in the Test series v West Indies in West in 1975-76, v New Zealand in India, v Pakistan in Pakistan in 1977-78

A I VA Richards, C H Lloyd, D A J Holford, D L Murray, L G Rowe, B D Julien L G Rowe, were Kirmani's victims behind the stumps in the series versus West Indies in 1975-76 in West Indies, M N Parker W Lees, R J Hadlee, R O Collinge, B L Cairns, G P Howarth, P Pethenck, G M Turner, J Morrison, J Parker of New Zealand in India in 1975-76, Majid Khan Wasim Bari (twice), Javed Miandad and Iqbal Qasim of Pakistan in 1978-79

Pradip Kumar Agarwal, Jhansi 2

Q When did Sir Gary Sobers make his Test debut and what is his Test record? A Sobers made his Test debut in the 5th Test against England at Kingston in 1953-54 and since then he played in 93 Tests, 160 innings, 21 times unbeaten, 8032 runs, 365 not out as highest score,

57.78 average, 28 Tests and 30 half centuries. He has held 109 catches and captured 235 wicket conceding 7999 runs at the average of 34.03 per wicket

Q Please let me know Rohan Kanhai's highest score in Tests?

A 256 made against India at Calcutta in 1958-59

P C Das, Mon (Nagaland)

Q Who has scored most sixes in a Test innings?

A W R Hammond of England has scored a maximum of 10 sixes in his knock of 336 not out against New Zealand at Auckland in 1932-33

Gopinath, Bhandra, Bombay

Q What are the Test records of Chetan Chauhan and Narasimha Rao?

A Chetan Chauhan: 40 Tests, 68 innings, twice not out, 2084 runs, 97 highest score, 31.57 average, 16 fifties and 6 zeroes

M V Narasimha Rao: 4 Tests, 6 innings, once not out, 46 total

57.78 average, 28 Tests and 30 half centuries. He has held 109 catches and captured 235 wicket conceding 7999 runs at the average of 34.03 per wicket

Q Please let me know Rohan Kanhai's highest score in Tests?

A 256 made against India at Calcutta in 1958-59

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# Quiz

Ranjit Ghose

## QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks

- 1 —and—refused to take part in the first Asian Games, although on different grounds
- 2 The most important long-distance event in the English horse racing calendar is the—Gold Cup
- 3 In discus a competitor is allowed—throws
- 4 —took out the first English cricket team to India in 1888-89
- 5 As far as crossing of the English Channel is concerned the shortest distance is from Dover to Cap—Nez
- 6 HOGuru—runs a very well-known wrestling school in Delhi
- 7 —Trabert, the famous US lawn tennis player of the 1950s was endearingly called as 'Tony'
- 8 Hamit—was a great heavyweight wrestler from Turkey
- 9 Squash rackets is a game usually played by—players
- 10 Of World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association, the—is the older body

## SOLUTION 176

C O E I R A L I

P I

A T  
K W  
H A

N O N V I N A J  
E V

## ANSWERS

- 1 Pakistan, China
- 2 Ascot
- 3 Six
- 4 Vernon
- 5 Gns
- 6 Hamman
- 7 Mennan Anthony
- 8 Kaplan
- 9 Two
- 10 latter

**Q** How many centuries and runs have been scored by M A K Pataudi in Tests and in Ranji Trophy matches?

**A 629 runs in 13 Tests in West Indies, England and in India**  
**Ant. Tinsley**

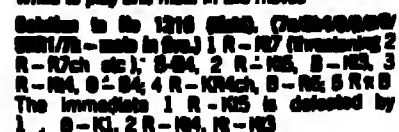
**A** The short ball or the short-pitched ball or even the short of a length delivery is the one delivered at the point short of the proper length where the ball should have been pitched. Over-pitched ball is the one delivered beyond the proper point of the delivery. A good length ball is one delivered at the proper point of delivery and a flighted delivery is the one with high flight.

Unlucky, one down in a contract that could hardly have failed if East had played normally. A coup? A master stroke? I am afraid not. East was not a great striker of the ball but neither was

**This week's quiz:** As South you hold ♠A J 9 7 4, ♥K 3, ♦10 4, ♣A 7 6 4. At love all West deals and bids one-heart, your partner overcalls with one-spade and East passes. You raise to four-spades, West comes again with five-diamonds and this comes round to you. Any action?

1 P-04, R-103; 2 P-04, P-04  
3 R-04, P-04; 4 P-04, P-04  
5 P-04, R-103; 6 R-103, R-103  
7 R-103, R-103; 8 R-103, P-04

Black





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# WEDDAR

THE DIFFERENCE













